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#### CHAPTER—XI

#### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

#### I. Land revenue administration

#### Early Period:

The earliest evidence of land administration in this part of the land is available from the Bahur plates belonging to the IX century which record the gift of three villages near Pondicherry for a Vidyastana. 1 According to the report submitted by the headman of the nadu, the boundaries of the land granted (to the Bahur College) were as follows: Of the two villages of Vilangattangaduvanur and Settupakkam, the eastern boundary is to the west of the boundary of a forest and of the boundary of Nenmalipakkam; the southern boundary is to the north of the boundary of Nenmalipakkam of the boundary of Nelvayipakkam, and of the boundary of Urathur; the western boundary is to the east of the boundary of Mambakkam and of sixty rice fields which form a Brahmedeya, near Vilangattangaduvanur; and the northern boundary is to the south of Vagur.<sup>2</sup>

The Bahur plates also provide us interesting details of boundaries, Natural objects having permanent locations such as rivers, mountains and rocks. canals, big trees, etc. were marked as boundaries in those days. The common fencing in the days of the Pallavas was stones and milk bush. Kallum kalliyum natti is a statement found in many of the inscriptions. All the villages and lands within the kingdom seem to have been surveyed and detailed records of the land rights, including schedules of tax-free lands were maintained by the village and district officers, and any alteration or transference of ownership was duly noted in the registers.3

It will be gathered from these records that the village and the central government of this period took the greatest pain in maintaining a detailed record of all the available and waste lands, lakes, tanks, wells and rivers, rocks and even trees for purposes of not only grants of land to temples and Brahmanas, but also for revenue purposes.

The Kasakkudi (in Karaikal) plates refer to nilakkalattar adhikarar and Vayil kelpar, who are said to be officials responsible for fixing the boundarie-of cultivable fields - a kind of survey officers who had to be present when the transference of ownership took place or more simply kalam may mean departs ment and nilakkalattar officers of the land department.5

There were different kinds of tenures viz. payalnilam, where the produce was shared equally by the landlord and the tenant, adainilam a proportion of whose produce was due to the king; and karainilam which was subject to periodical redistribution among tenants.6

Under the Cholas, however, the system underwent some changes. We are told that lands and homes provided the primary subjects of taxation. Lands were classified into different grades, as many as twelve or more grades (taram). There were also unclassified lands known as taramili. That revenue from agricultural lands was periodically reassessed and the classification of lands revised from time to time in accordance with changes in cropping, fertility and so on is amply borne out by the inscriptions. 7 Prof. Nilakanta Sastri refers to a record\* of the reign of Rajadhiraja - I from Thirubuvanai (near Pondicherry) according to which "the annual share of the landlord on 72 yelis of land was 12,000 kalams of paddy, giving an average of 166 and 2/3 kalams per veli; and that after remitting this amount of paddy, the tenants cultivating these lands were to be held liable only for eri-ayam, padi-kaval-kuli, free labour (amanji) on the bank and not for any other customary dues (marijadi) of the pidagai (section of the village) such as vellam irai, ulavirai, al-and-amanji.8

Not much useful information is available about the system of revenue administration under the Vijayanagar rulers.

Mughal period:

The king was the sole proprietor of all lands and he granted it to anybody according to his will and pleasure, either freely or for a small fee. The country was divided into subahs which again were sub-divided into sarkars each of which in turn comprised a number of parganahs, 9. Each parganah was a union of several villages placed under the control of an amaldar assisted by a large subordinate staff. It is not known how far the system introduced by Muslim rulers was prevalent in this territory. However, from the Diary of Ananda Rangapillai, it could be made out that the practice of dividing the country into parganahs and appointing amaldars was in vogue here.

<sup>\*</sup> Annual Report of Epigraphy (176 of 1919).

#### French period:

We have little information about the land revenue administration during the whole of XVIIIth century. What little information we have tends to suggest that the French merely followed the system which prevailed under the Nawab's rule with little or no alteration.

Even though the French established their loge in Pondicherry as early as 1673, they came to be firmly established here only from 1699, when the territory was restored to them by the Dutch. The French had then purchased from the Dutch all rights of sovereignty over the town of Pondicherry and its immediate surroundings. According to Paul Kaeppelin, the Dutch, during their six-year occupation, had already given a start to financial organisation which François Martin adopted in 1699. 10 But the details of the system are unfortunately not available. The old principle that all lands belonged only to the King was maintained by the French Company. As Falgayrac says: "there was no individual ownership. France became, in the place of Indian kings, the sole proprietor of all lands." Hence, the Company was always free to take away any land required for safeguarding its interest.

Lands at that time were either farmed out to renters who, in turn, gave them to other sub-renters or leased out direct to the ryots themselves. 12

Lands were farmed out normally for a period of five years. This was so because prospects of farming were not always the same. Loss sustained in a lean period could be made good when harvests were good.13

The renters also leased out the lands to ryots under adamanom.\* The adamanom was of two sorts: varam and tirvai. Under tirvai the land was granted to the ryots on a fixed rent. Under varam the produce was shared between the farmers and the ryots. In both the cases, however, deductions amounting to about 10 per cent were made from the crop towards payment for village servants, artisans, temples, etc. before the ryot was allowed to remove any portion of the harvest.

Normally the choice was left to the ryot who preferred always the adamanom tirvai, because, in the case of tirvai he was master of his land more than in the case of varam where he was only the slave of the farmer.

<sup>\*</sup> An agreement or contract subscribed between the ryot and the renter (farmer).

The land was classified either as paddy (wet) land or small grain (dry) land. The dry land was usually assigned on a fixed rent (tirvai) while the wet land was either rented or cultivated according to the crop-sharing system.

In the case of lands having irrigation facilities, varam gave more to farmers than to cultivators who used to receive only 1/3 of the crop, and sometimes from 2/5 to 9/20 of the crop, according to the nature of the land. In the case of lands irrigated with some difficulty, varam gave equal share. In these two cases, the cultivator who had the choice preferred always adamanom on tirvai. The reason for this was that the cultivator was free after the amount of tirvai was once fixed and he was not too much worried about the payment, because he was sure that his land could produce without much difficulty in two crops more than what he had to pay to the farmer. Morever, there were lands of three crops also. The accounts were usually settled in two crops under tirvai. In the first samba crop which was always an abundant one, the cultivator paid 2/3 of his tirvai and in the second kar crop which was neither so good nor so abundant, he paid the balance. And if the land was ready for a third crop, the entire benefit from this went to the cultivator.

As already referred to, adamanom was generally subscribed for five years. If for any reason the cultivator could not have fifteen crops in all these five years, he would have at least fourteen and, therefore, there might not be any chance for a conflict between him and the farmer; but at the end of the fifth year which fell normally in the month of June, the cultivator was bound to complete the harvest and to leave the land free for the next lease. If however, at this time eight or ten days more were required for the paddy to become ripe, the cultivator could obtain an extension of time by giving some gifts to the farmer; but if more time was necessary, the crop went into the new accounts of the farmer.

In respect of the lands subjected to scarcity of water, where the water had to be baled out with *picottah*, varam gave more to the cultivator than to the farmer. The latter got only 9/20 or 2/5 or even less of the harvest. In such cases, the cultivator preferred the lands for adamanom on varam. Under tirvai, he would run the risk of giving to the farmer more than the land could give him.14

The assignment of lands on adamanom was announced to the people by beat of tom-tom and it was effected by giving cowles\* containing the rates for lands.15 The deeds pertaining to adamanoms were registered with the local notary called Tabellion. The quantum of share indicated in one deed was the basis to fix the share for the subsequent adamanom. Hence, a ryot was often tempted to indicate in the deed the quantity of his share a little less than the quantity actually paid by him. He would persuade, in this connection, the existing farmer by giving some gifts to him. Even though such manipulations could be detected at a later stage, the new farmer could not evict forcibly a ryot from his land in order to give it to another one. According to the established custom followed from time immemorial, land had to be passed on from father to son in every family, though it did not belong to them.16

Land revenue was collected by the amaldars posted in each parganals or group of villages. They were assisted by one or two peons appointed by the government. They were bound to give the renter and the farmer accounts in respect of each year and each village. The collected amount should normally be remitted to the government before the time limit fixed for the purpose. However, permission was granted to the amaldar to remit the arrears after the due date provided they gave nazars (gift) to the Governors and lessees. 17 Nattars or heads of the villages helped the amaldars in performing their duties.

To mark the starting of the collection of land revenue, the practice of tying toranams and hoisting flags in each village seems to have been followed in those days. The amaldars or the nattars themselves did the needful and passed on to the farmer the accounts of expenditure incurred in this connection.

While collecting their share, the farmers levied also some other petty taxes, namely resum (customary perquisites) and sadalwar (contingencies) at the rate of ten per cent of the total amount, the salaries of the sibandhis (employees), etc. Sometimes a certain amount had to be collected towards meeting the expenditure incurred on the European soldiers and coolies admitted in the hospital. 18

<sup>\*</sup> A cowle is an agreement to hand over land without payment for a certain period or on payment for a certain period of a diminished assessment gradually rising to full assessment – Manual of the Administration of the Madras Presidency.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, i.e. soon after the French took over the establishments from the British (1816), the French brought forward some legislation, not only to regulate the system of farming out lands, but also to improve the different cultivations. Thus, for the first time an Ordonnance Royal was issued on 25 October 1826. 19 Under this ordinance, lands were to be perpetually farmed out to Europeans or their descendants enjoying all the rights of a French citizen on condition that the land should be brought under cultivation within a fixed time. The farmers had to pay a security equal to two years lease amount and were allowed to rent out their lands to others.

The average of the last fifteen years harvest was fixed as the price of the farm which was to be paid every year in the **Domaine** in two equal instalments, i.e. on 1 March and then on 1 July. At the end of fifteen years in the case of wet lands, and six years in the case of *porombokes* the ownership was to be transferred to the farmers who thereafter could sell, transferhypothecate and give up their lands, wholly or partly.

The farmer, with the help of the cerivain\* had to draw up every year in the month of July and in respect of each ryot, a contract called patta stating the extent of lands to be cultivated by him, the taxes due on such lands, the share due to the ryot (varam) and the terms of payment. The pattas were to be drawn in duplicate, signed by the lessor, the ecrivain and the cultivator and registered in the Bureau du Domaine.

The ordonnance further prescribed that the farmer should give every year to the cultivators interest-free advance called varakam which was to be not less than one-fifth of his share of the cost of cultivation. Similarly, if in any year the harvest was less than the average of three preceding years, the farmer was bound to give a remission to the ryot. Reciprocally, if the ryot failed to remit his dues, the farmer had the right to attach and confiscate the harvest with the help of the écrivain and the taléaris (peons) in the presence of four notables.

After sometime it was found that the above ordonnance was not adequate to set right matters regarding the ownership of lands which was till then decided according to the old customs and conventions. To determine, once for

<sup>\*</sup> His function was similar to that of a karnam.

all, the rights of the Government as well as the rights of the individuals on the lands, it was felt necessary to issue another ordinance. Hence, by repealing the above said ordinance of 25 October 1826 the ordinance of 7 June 1828 was issued to regulate the ownership of lands and the collection of land tax. 20 This is the basic and primordial law to which one has to refer even now for matters relating to the origin of land ownership.

According to this ordinance (1828), all the lands in Pondicherry region were divided into four categories:

(a) The first category included all lands over which the Government had given away the right of ownership. These lands were permanently transferred to private persons without any payment of rent and in some cases on payment of a fixed rent in cash. They are the dwelling sites in Pondicherry town, manais and manaimappus of villages, garden lands, sanad maniams or lands offered by Indian princes or French Government in recognition of services rendered, devasthanams or lands donated to temples, choultries, religious and charitable institutions and finally the tarpadimaniams or lands given to village servants as remuneration for their services.

Although these lands could be freely enjoyed by the proprietors, this right of enjoyment was subject to certain restrictions. The dwelling sites and the village manais should not be converted into any other kind of land. The devasthanam lands could not be sold, given in exchange, mortgaged or leased out, except with the prior permission of the government. Devasthanam lands will automatically become government lands when the purpose for which they were initially assigned was not fulfilled. The tarpadimaniam lands could neither be sold nor mortgaged. They could, however, be given on long lease or exchanged with the permission of the government. So far as lands conceded on payment of rent were concerned, the possessors could keep them as along as they wanted and part with them by executing a deed to this effect with the government.

(b) The second category comprised of lands permanently given by the government to private persons retaining, however, the right of ownership. These were called *adamanams*. These lands were subject to a tax in cash proportionate to the average value of the crops raised on the lands varying from 32 per cent to 48 per cent. The owners of *adamanam* land had the right to alienate their properties or to mortgage them. But they could not dispose of by

parcelling out these lands. They could raise all kinds of crops and improve the irrigation facilities. But the tax to be paid by them could never be increased or revised. Besides, they were exempted from payment of all fees due to the sibandhis and other charges like sevandiram and murai paid to naynars, nottakkarars, thottis, talearies and comboukarars. Nonetheless, they were always bound to pay the village servants not paid by the Government, besides such contribution to temples and some other customary dues. Muslims and Brahmins enjoyed a concession known as mina of 10 per cent on the tax over adamanom lands in Villiyanur and Bahur Communes.

Cultivators who held adamanom lands were given an advance in the month of August every year in proportion to the extent of lands held by them to meet the agricultural expenses. They had to repay the loan without interest in two equal instalments on 15 January and 15 May every year.

All land leased on adamanam was subjected to a tax payable in cash at the following rates based on the average yield of the land: 21

48 per cent for paddy lands irrigated by channels, tanks, etc.

43 per cent for paddy lands irrigated with the help of picottahs.

32 per cent for paddy lands irrigated with the help of small picottahs.

The tax was payable in seven instalments by the holders of adamanom land as follows:

15 November		3	per cent.
15 December		5	per cent.
15 January	• •	15	per cent.
15 February		20	per cent.
15 March		20	per cent.
15 April		15	per cent.
15 May		20	per cent.

They were allowed to harvest the crops only after full payment of the tax or after furnishing sufficient security. In case they were in default, adamanom lands were attached and taken over by the government.

They were entitled to a remission of tax in case the yield was less than half the normal yield in accordance with the findings of a commission composed of a tahsildar or béchecar, revenue officials and four notables.

Those who, under force of circumstances, wanted to part with their adamanom holdings were required to execute a rasinamah deed in the presence of two witnesses and the écrivain and the régisseur or the farmer of the village and commis du Bureau du domaine. The deed should then be approved by the Receveur du Domaine (custodian of government property).

(c) The third category included all *poromboke* lands, that is to say, all lands under the enjoyment and ownership of the government. They were classified into three groups: cultivated lands, cultivable fallow, uncultivable or waste lands. Only the cultivated lands were leased out for a limited period.

The poromboke lands could be sold, assigned with or without rent, given as adamanom or leased out for a short period. The sale was effected by tender or auction. The assignment was offered for a fixed rent subject to the condition that sugarcane and other cash crops were raised within a period of three years on the cultivable fallow lands. Adamanoms or leases were executed on an agreement to pay a tax proportionate to the value of the crops raised on the fields.

(d) The fourth category included all lands which did not fall under the category of private property or under the aforesaid classification of lands and which might be considered as public property.

This fourfold classification of lands was followed without any major change till the year 1853.

The above ordinance provided for the payment of land tax directly to the 'domnine'. The dues in respect of adamanom lands and the lease amount in respect of lands farmed out were to be collected by the Receveur du Domaine who received in this connection an allowance at the rate of one per cent. The villages farmed out were administered by the pattamaniagars (régisseurs) selected from among the notables and appointed by the Governor.

The pattamaniagars were to be under the control of tahsildars and béchecars. In respect of the rented out lands, an allowance at the rate of half per cent of the amount collected was given to the tahsildars and the béchecars.

Every year during the first fortnight, the farmers and régisseurs had to submit to the Receveur du Domaine a nominal list indicating the required remissions, the arrears and the advance or varacoms to be sanctioned to the cultivators. Thereupon, the Receveur du Domaine after inspecting the villages and hearing the concerned persons, had to submit to the government a general statement of collection to be made. These statements, duly approved by the Governor, were returned to the farmers and régisseurs.

The farmers were entitled to a certain percentage of their collection towards meeting the collection expenditure. This percentage was fixed as follows:

	Percentage
Where collection was less than 600 pagodas	 12
Where it was from 601 to 1,200 pagodas	 10
Where it was 1,201 pagodas and above	 8

The régisseurs were entitled to an allowance proportionate to the amount collected by them at the following rate:

Collection		Percentage
From 300 to 400 pagodas		5
From 401 to 550 pagodas	• •	41/2
From 551 to 700 pagodas		4
From 701 to 900 pagodas	••	$3\frac{1}{2}$
From 901 to 1,200 pagodas	• •	3
From 1,201 and above pagodas		21/2

It was prescribed that the collection of each régisseur should not be less than 300 pagodas. These were the salient features of the Ordonnance of 7 June 1828.

It may be seen that the ordinance did not envisage any major deviation from the old principle that gave the king the exclusive right over the land. Hence the local people at several times raised objections against the ordinance; but for a long time no attention was paid to their objections. At last, the Governor referred the matter to a Commission which came to be known as Commission d'Agriculture et de Commerce constituted in the year 1848.22 This Commission recommended two things: (1) a remission of tax, (2) the conferment of ownership rights to the cultivators.

Following the advice of the commission several letters were sent from France asking the local government to reduce the heavy burden of tax imposed on the cultivators. Some changes in the system of taxation was also felt necessary for simplifying the accounts of the **Domaine**. Consequently an arrêté was issued on 19 February 1853 giving a general remission of tax with effect from 15 July 1854 at the following rates: 23

- 23 per cent for assigned lands.
- 33 per cent for adamanom lands.
- 50 per cent for uncultivated lands.

The same arrêté also fixed the land tax to be collected in future at the rate of one-fourth of the gross income derived from the lands. Al special concessions such as mina were also abolished.

Following the fixation of the rate of land tax, the lands were classified according to their nature into two broad categories such as wet lands and dry lands which were further subdivided into different classes as follows.

Class			et lands tax per l			Dry land tax per	
(1)		(14.114	(2)	,	(1411)	(3)	, )
	 	Rs.	Fs.	Cs.*	Rs.	Fs.	Cs
1st class	 	18	5	8	9	2	16
2nd class	 	17	4	0	8	1	8
3rd class	 	16	2	16	7	0	10

<sup>\*</sup> Rupees, fanams, caches.

Fanam was a local coin equal to 1/8 of a rupee. Cache was equal to 1/24 of a fanam.

(1)			(2)			(3)	
		Rs.	Fs.	Cs.*	Rs.	Fs.	Cs.
4th class	• •	 15	1	8	5	6	16
5th class		 14		0	4	4	8
6th class		 12	6	16	4	1	14
7th class		 11	5	8	3	4	0
8th class	• •	 10	4	11	2	6	10
9th class		 9	2	16	2	2	16
10th class		 8	1	8	1	6	22
11th class		 7	0	0	1	3	5
12th class	• •	 5	6	16	0	7	12
13th class		 4	5 -	8			
14th class		 3	4	0			
15th class		 3	2	16			
6th class		 1	1	8			

As regards the conferment of ownership rights to the cultivators, it was considered that such a step would not only strengthen the relationship between the cultivator and his land, but also increase thereby the productive capacity of the land to the advantage of the government. An Imperial décret was issued on 16 January 1854 under which all land-holders were declared the undisputed owners of the lands they cultivated, provided they had cleared the payment of tax.24

All land-holders were thus conferred the right of full ownership viz., with independent saleable rights. At the same time all land-holdings were again divided into the following three broad categories for the purpose of land tax collection:

- 1. Holdings belonging to the proprietors in accordance with the provisions of the Imperial decree of 1854.
- 2. Lands assigned with or without payment of rent.

<sup>\*</sup> Rupees, fanams, caches.

Government land leased out on request to parties subject to the payment of rent representing both land tax and lease amount at the same time.

This is in brief, the history of land revenue administration upto 1854.

Survey and settlement:

Land tax was collected on the basis of a payemache\* originally drawn up in 1806\*\* during the British interregnum and then modified in 1830 for Bahur and Villiyanur and then again between 1818 and 1860 for Pondicherry and Ozhukarai.25

The payemache was drawn up in palm leaves and contained village-wise all particulars of each field viz. serial number, name of the land, boundaries, measurement of each side in 24 ft. chain (7.31 metres) the extent in kany (equal to 53.53 ares), details of superstructures, number of crops grown, the amount of tax, nature of land and the mode of irrigation. The register also contained the total extent of private lands, government or municipal poromboke lands and the total area of the villages.

It was found that the classification of lands into two main categories as wet and dry land) did not facilitate the equitable imposition of taxes, as axation was based mainly on irrigation facilities. In due course, many dry lands were converted into wet lands; but the tax imposed on them remained the same resulting in some sort of discrimination in the assessment of tax between landowners.

- \* The old survey register showing the name of the owner of lands, its survey number, area, classification, surroundings and summary description of the land in local measurements (kany, couji, visam.)
- \*\* J.H. Garstin mentions in the South Arcot District Gazetteer published in 1878 that before the French Districts were given up, they were carefully surveyed, and the original survey plans, bearing the signatures of Colin Mackenzie, Surveyor General of India, and Lieutenant Sim of the Engineers, and dated June 1816 is one of the most important records in the Special Agents Office. (vide p. 172).

It was not also found possible to levy tax properly on the basis of the payemache. In order to remedy the defects of the old system, the Conseil Général in its deliberations dated 28 and 30 January 1887, called for the preparation of survey maps indicating the boundaries of the communes, villages and lands. The arrêté issued on 4 March 1887 ordered the setting up of a Cadastre in Pondicherry and other communes. Under an agreement signed on 2 March 1887, the work was entrusted to De Closets, an Engineer on a remuneration of Rs. 150 per sq. km. Although he was expected to complete his work within a period of three years, progress was slow. The agreement was therefore cancelled on 16 May 1888.

The work was then entrusted to Engineer Quaintenne under an agreement signed on 21 October 1889 on a remuneration of Rs. 2-1/2 per hectare. He was asked to furnish in three years, (1) a sectional plan of the village (plan parcellaire) on a scale of 1/2000 showing the survey number of each revenue village, (2) a sectional plan of the commune on a scale of 1/10000, (3) a general plan of the communes on a scale of 1,40,000 and (4) a schedule giving all the necessary particulars for each section of land. 26

The arrêté of 6 November 1889 laid down the conditions for carrying out the work and also established a Bureau du Cadastre in the office of the 'Service des Contributions' to deal with all administrative aspects of the survey work. While the contractual work was under way, the Cadastre Office is said to have done nothing but hamper its work leading to the cancellation of the agreement in July 1893. The same month Quaintenne was appointed (as per the arrêté of 22 July 1893) Géométre en Chef of the cadastre, and he began to set right matters. However, the proposal submitted by the administration to vote necessary funds for continuing the cadastral work was rejected by the Conseil which instead called for an investigation of the work carried out till then. This brought about the mission of Engineer Getten who went through the records and recommended their early utilisation.27 The Conseil Général which took up the question in 1897 accepted in principle the proposal that every type of land-holder should be made liable to pay land tax and voted the funds required for carrying on the work which was duly approved by the arrêté of 18 April 1898. A Commission was also constituted to determine the nature and the net income of each portion of land in the entire region of Pondicherry.

On the basis of the recommendations of this commission, lands were to be broadly classified into three categories:

- 1. Irrigated lands or wet lands.
- 2. Non-irrigated lands or dry lands.
- 3. Waste, non-cultivable lands (manavaries).

The first two categories were to be divided into three classes each and the third category was to consist of only one class. But this work of classification came to a standstill the very next year for want of funds.

In 1899 the Conseil Général again refused to vote funds for carrying on the work and called upon the administration to study the question and submit details of the proposal based on the new formula of land tax. The work remained somehow bogged down till 1908 when the question came up again for consideration. The proposals submitted by the Chef du Service des Contributions on 20 July 1908 was finally approved by the décret of 9 July 1913 and came to be enforced by the arrêté of 11 August 1914. Thus the survey work in the different regions was undertaken during different periods as noted below:

Pondicherry	1889—1910
Yanam	H-11-1887-1890
Karaikal	1912 –1920
Mahe	1929—1932

The land records so prepared were as follows:

- 1. Copy of the plan parcellaire i.e. map prepared on a scale of 1/2000 showing survey numbers for each revenue village.
- 2. Copy of the tableau synoptique i.e. a register grouping in serial order all survey numbers of a revenue village with the following particulars: Nature of lands (wet, dry, barren); classification, ownership (patta or poromboke); if patta, the number of the same; if poromboke, whether belonging to municipalities or Government, corresponding payemache number, area in metric system as well as in the local system.

- 3. Copy of the matrice cadastrale i.e. a register grouping holdings pattadarwise in each revenue village and showing the following particulars: name of the owner of lands, survey number, classification, area in metric system.
- 4. Commune maps on a scale of 1/40,000 (40 metres are represented by 1 mm.). There are four such maps.
- 5. Section maps which consist of many villages on a scale of 1/10,000 (10 metres are represented by 1 mm.). There are twenty such maps.
- 6. Field maps (plan parcellaire) on a scale of 1/2,000 (2 metres are represented by 1mm.). These plot maps are drawn on a sheet of 106 cm × 66 cm size. There are three hundred and six such sheets.
- 7. Tableau synoptique.
- 8. Matrice cadastrale.
- 9. Fiche cadastral i.e. a separate sheet grouping holdings pattadar-wise in each revenue village. These are true copies of the matrice cadastrale in alphabetical order.
- 10. Liasse, i.e. registers giving particulars about classification, every survey number (10 years).
- 11. Payemache register i.e. an old survey register showing the name of the owner of lands, its survey number and its extent, its classification, surroundings and summary description of the land with the local measures (kany, couji, visam).
- 12. Patta register, i.e. showing pattadar-wise the cadastral survey number and the corresponding payemache number with the name of the owner and the area in local measures.
- 13. Etat de section i.e. a register showing particulars of survey number of the land with the name of its owner, classification and area in metric measures.

The records of survey number, holdings of pattadars and the village map were maintained at the village level by the Surveillants du Domaine. The Bureau du Cadastre maintained the maps of communes, villages, fields, holdings of pattadars etc. at the territorial level.

The land records as drawn up after 1887 continued in use at the village and territorial level until very recently.

Though the survey was done for each field, maps were not prepared for each field with the measurements. They were prepared only for each village and for each of the communes covering a number of villages and dividing the communes into sections. It was often found difficult to collect data about land ownership, tenancy, cropped area, fallows, etc. with the help of these records. In the case of tenancy lands, it was not so easy to know the names of tenants and the area of lands leased out. In order to remedy this situation, the Pondicherry Survey and Boundaries Act, 1967 was passed by the legislature in 1967 and the Directorate of Survey and Land Records was formed the same year to carry out a fresh survey. The re-survey operations were completed in August 1973. This survey not only took the measurements of the boundaries of each holding but also the details of persons owning and enjoying them.

The question of classification was also considered by the Conseil Général on 9 December 1909. It admitted that the old classification of lands into two categories of 16 and 12 classes (vide pp. 933-934) was cumbersome complicated. But at the same time, it did not agree to reduce all of a sudden the 16 and 12 classes of each category into three classes only. By way of a compromise, the Council suggested three main categories, with six classes each in the first two categories and three in the third.28 Accordingly it was also decided to constitute a Land Classification Commission to determine the category and the class of each land according to the new classification. The classification work actually commenced only after it was finally approved by the Conseil d'Etat in France under the décret of 9 July 1913 duly promulgated by the arrêté of 11 August 1914. Along with the Land Classification Commission for each area, a Superior Classification Commission was also formed in Pondicherry. The Superior Commission selected typical plots in some of the villages in Pondicherry region, estimated their net yield per hectare and communicated them to the local commissions to enable them to divide the lands into categories (as wet, dry, wooded or uncultivated) and classes. The Superior Commission fixed up five types for category two (dry lands) and two types for category three (waste lands) and stated that if any paddy field having a net yield equal to or higher than that of the 1st class in category one, it will be classified as class one, that having a net yield equal to or higher than the second class, classified as second class and so on, so much so, the net yield which was less than that of the 5th class would be put in the sixth class.

The Classification Commission noted the survey number of each plot, the extent, the class to which it corresponded by comparison of its yield per kany with the list of prototypes of lands drawn up by the Superior Commission together with the name of the owner of the plot, the number of crops, the means of irrigation, the nature of crops raised, etc.

Following the publication of the report of the various commissions, aggrieved parties were free to lodge their objections. The objections were scrutinised, heard, and orders issued. Those who still felt grieved could appeal to the Superior Commission through the Chef du Service des Contributions. The Superior Commission was composed of the Chief of the Contribution as President. The Commission consisted of, besides a member of the Conseil Général, a delegate each of the Chambre de Commerce and the Chamber of Agriculture and the Government.

Significantly, the Commission had no authority to declare dry lands into wet lands even though water from government sources was utilized to irrigate the land. Whenever dry land was to be converted into wet land, the owner of the land concerned had to apply to the Conseil du Contentieux Administratif (Administrative Court). The Court sought the opinion of the Public Works Department on the feasibility of irrigating the dry land with water from government sources and only then passed orders wherever necessary, converting dry land into wet land. Only on receipt of such an order, the land was classified as wet land in the records of the Revenue Department and wet assessment as indicated in the order was collected.

In the meanwhile, the deliberation of 11 December 1912 had prescribed that a general revision of classification of lands should be carried out once in five years. Accordingly the next revision ought to have taken place in 1917. This was delayed due to the emergency following the First World War. The work relating to the classification was next sanctioned by the arrêté of 21 January 1919. Work was actually carried out in Pondicherry as per the arrêté of 26 May 1920, in Karaikal as per the arrêté of 28 August 1924 and in Yanam as per the arrête of 2 September 1924.

The arrêté of 2 September 1929 which ordered the next classification work in Pondicherry was not carried out in view of the depression.

On 27 December 1931 the Conseil Général in its deliberation resolved that henceforth classification of lands should be carried out in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam once every ten years and proposed the next classification to be carried out in 1935, 1936 and 1937 in Pondicherry, Yanam and Karaikal respectively. This was, however, not given effect to. The Conseil Général reaffirmed its faith in the 10 year schedule at the session of 12 December 1934 and ordered the reclassification of lands from one class to another on the basis of the increase in the yield of land or improvement in the potentiality of the soil, etc.

The work was actually carried out in Pondicherry in the year 1935, in Yanam in the year 1936 and in Karaikal in the year 1937. The last such operation was carried out in 1957. The next settlement due in 1967 was however, not carried out as the Administration decided to fix the rates according to the classification of soil and the fixation of taram as in Tamil Nadu. Hence the Pondicherry Settlement Act, 1970 was brought forward to decide the rate of assessment on each land generally following the principles of ryotwari settlement as in vogue in Tamil Nadu. The Act was passed on 7 April 1970 and the settlement operations started in December 1971.

Under the Pondicherry Settlement Act, 1970, lands are divided into groups and classes, based on the nature of their soil, their irrigation and cultivation facilities and other allied circumstances such as rainfall, marketing facilities and profits of agriculture. Lands of like-productive capacity are bracketed together into tarams or grades. The productive capacity is determined on the yield of the staple crops, usually food crops grown in the areas, and they are paddy in the case of wet lands, ragi, cholam, cambu and varagu in the case of dry lands. The number of tarams vary from region to region and it also differs for wet, dry, garden, lanka and padugai lands. Separate rates of assessment are attached to each taram. The rates of assessment per hectare are as follows:

#### PONDICHERRY REGION

Taram	Wet	Dry
(1)	(2)	(3)
	Rs. P.	Rs. P
1.	26.42	9.88
2.	23.48	8.32
3.	20.54	6.94
4.	17.60	5.56
5.	14.68	4.18
6.	13.13	3.38
7.	11.73	2.77
8.	10.18	2.00
9.	8.79	1.38
10.	7.41	0.91

## KARAIKAL REGION

Taram	Wet	Padus Dry the t	gai (i.e. lands between iver embankments and the water course.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1.	41.07	20.39	20.39
2.	35.21	14.68	14.68
3.	29.33	11.73	_
<b>4</b> .	26.25	8.65	_

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
5.	23.48	7.41	
6.	20.39	5.85	
7.	17.60	4.32	_
8.	14.68	3.71	
9.	12.98	2.94	<del></del>
10.	11.73	2.15	
11.	10.18	1.24	<del></del>
12.	8.65	0.62	

# MAHE REGION

Wet	Garden	Dry	
	संयम्ब जयते		
Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	
24.39	41.07	8.32	
19.62	35.21	5.56	
14.68	29.33	4.18	
9.73	23.48	3.56	
7.41	17.60	2.79	
4.94	11.73	2.15	
2.47	5.85	1.38	
	Rs. P. 24.39 19.62 14.68 9.73 7.41 4.94	Rs. P. Rs. P.  24.39 41.07  19.62 35.21  14.68 29.33  9.73 23.48  7.41 17.60  4.94 11.73	Rs. P. Rs. P. Rs. P.  24.39 41.07 8.32  19.62 35.21 5.56  14.68 29.33 4.18  9.73 23.48 3.56  7.41 17.60 2.79  4.94 11.73 2.15

YANAM REGION

Taram	Wet	Dry other than lanka (islands in Gautami Godavari) and padugai lands	Dry
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P
1.	35.21	20.39	32.12
2.	29.33	14.68	26.24
3.	26.24	11.73	20.39
4.	23.48	8.65	14.68
5.	20.39	AC (34) 7.41	11.73
6.	17.60	5.85	8.65
7.	14.68	4.18	7.41
8.	12.98	3.38	5.85
9.	11.73	2.77	4.18
10.	10.18	2.15	• •
11.	8.65	सन्यमेव जपन्ते8	• •
12.	7.41	0.77	

The resurvey and settlement operations in respect of agricultural lands in the territory were taken up and completed by 30 June 1973 in Pondicherry and Mahe regions and by 30 June 1974 in Karaikal and Yanam regions. The settlement operations included the fixation of assessment and preparation of Register of Rights showing the names of landowners, tenants, lessees, etc.

The new rates of assessment became effective from the fasli years 1383 and 1384 as detailed below:

Pondicherry

Mahe

| Fasli 1383 (year commencing on 1 July 1973)

For single crop lands, if changed into double crop lands in the course of the same year, and if irrigated with water from government source, the second crop charge on the land was half of the single crop assessment under the Act whereas it was 1/4 of the basic tax before its enforcement.

No exemption from land tax for lands held by *devastanams*, charitable and religious institutions was granted in conformity with article 7 of the déliberation dated 11 December 1912 according to which "all the lands of the Pondicherry settlement without exception shall be subject to land tax".

#### Land revenue:

In the beginning, the French Company itself exploited the lands directly and derived an income of 524 pagodas of which 229 came from Ariyankuppam, 84 from Kalapet and 76 from Olandai, the balance of 135 being the outcome of seven other negligible villages. The acquisition of Ozhukarai in 1706 increased considerably the revenue since it yielded first 566 pagodas and then nearly double this amount.29

By about 1710 when Hebert was the Governor, the Company resorted to the system of letting out lands to the renters for a specified number of years. The Company's revenue increased considerably under this system (42,553 French livres). Nainiappapillai who was then the Mudaliar (chief of the natives) evinced much interest in the affairs of the Company, and did much to improve the revenues to the extent possible. He was also instrumental for conducting negotiations with the Carnatic Nawab for obtaining the cession of Murungappakkam village which further raised the Company's income. 30 Yearwise details of income from land revenue are not available. However, from the random data available it becomes evident that there was a gradual increase in the income.

In June 1724 the Company farmed out the lands of Ariyankuppam and Ozhukarai villages to Guruvappapillai (nephew of Anandarangapillai) at the rate of 2,155 pagodas.31

In 1733, the lands were leased out for five years at the rate of 2,646 pagodas per annum. In 1738 the lease was renewed for another period of five years at an increased amount of 4,152 pagodas per year. 32

In 1773, lands were leased out for a total sum of 7,885 pagodas as shown below:

Total		7,885	pagodas
Ariyankuppam villages	••	619	**
Abhishekapakkam villages	••	2,692	,,
Border villages		2,557	**
Ozhukarai villages	• •	2,017	pagodas

In 1791 the lands were leased out for a total sum of 2,33,925 livres as detailed below:

Total	2,33,925	livres
Abhishekapakkam and Ozhukarai	36,300   메일리	"
Alankuppam village	1,275	,,
Border villages	16,350	,,
Villiyanur and Bahur	1,80,000	livres

pagodas according to the South Arcot Gazetteer.

The income from land revenue in the year 1802 was placed at 6,378 star

It is evident from official records that the rate of land tax had undergone some changes subsequently. For instance, the Government order of 8 July 1861 granted a temporary remission of 10% in view of the increase in the price of salt. Thereafter, the rate of land tax was not revised until 1912.

<sup>\*</sup> This is based on the information contained in a manuscript available at the French Institute, Pondicherry. (vide Demandes et questions faite à Mr. Law par Mr. Bellecombe.

Based on the recommendations of the Land Classification Commissions a new schedule of land tax was drawn up in 1910.33

Class	Average net income per kany.				
Wet or paddy lands	7				
	Rs.	Rs. *			
1.	170٦	21.250			
2.	140	17.500			
3.	110	13.750			
4.	80 1/8 or 12½ percent	10.000			
5.	50	6.250			
6.	20	2.500			
Small grain lands (a  1.  2.	105	16.875 13.120			
3.	सन्यामेन ज्याने 1/8 or 12} percen	t 10.000			
4.	55	6.875			
5.	35	4.375			
6.	15	1.875			
Waste lands					
1.	30 ]	3.750			
2.	20 1/8 or 12½ perce	ent 2.500			
3.	8 }	1.000			

<sup>\*</sup> As per the decimal system 1000 millièmes — 1 Rupee.

Based on the above schedule, the Council fixed the rates of land tax. But the déliberation fixing the rates as above was not approved by the Government. Again the Conseil Général discussed this question and finally decided in favour of the above rates in the sitting held on 11 December 1912.

The Conseil Général also passed a resolution on 30 December 1912, authorising the apportionment of 2.5 per cent of the land tax to the municipalities. This deliberation was finally approved by the décret of 8 September 1917 and was given effect to by the arrêté of 18 October 1917.34

As per the déliberation of 30 December 1912, enforced by the arrêté of 24 January 1916, municipalities in the territory were entitled to receive an additional centage at not more than 20 per cent of the basic land tax in order to augment their resources. There were two kinds of centage charges viz. those required for ordinary and extraordinary items of expenditure. In both the cases, the maximum limit was fixed at 20 per cent.

The following statement gives the total income from land revenue during the first quarter of this century:—

					(In	rupees)
Year		Pondicherr	y Karaikal	Mahe	Yanam	Total
1900		 1,09,289	70,858	5,345	6,896	1,92,288
1902		 1,09,250	70,858	5,345	7,262	1,92,715
1903		 1,09,698	85,000	5,345	7,151	2,07,194
1904		 1,09,941	70,858	5,346	6,944	1,93,089
1906		 1,10,083	70,858	5,335	7,184	1,93,460
1917		 1,48,770	99,260	6,385	7,555	2,61,970
1923		 1,66,000	1,60,000	7,800	7,400	3,41,200
1924		 1,47,000	1,57,000	7,800	7,600	3,19,400
1925		 1,67,000	1,57,000	7,800	6,600	3,38,400

In the ordinary session of 1930, a general reform of taxes was suggested on the ground that the rates of the taxes fixed long ago (1912) could not hold good at a time when the entire world was seriously hit by the severe economic crisis. The Conseil Général was also of the view that some relief should be given to cultivators who were badly affected by the depression. The Government agreed to the suggestion of the Conseil and by the arrêté dated 26 May 1931, appointed a Commission for submitting a plan of fiscal reforms.35

This commission suggested some changes in the system of collection and a reduction in the rate of land tax. Consequently on 27 December 1931, the Conseil Général recommended a reduction of land tax from 1/8th to 1/10th of the net income. The Administration argued that this reduction, if given effect to, would result in a deficit of Rs. 66,000 in the budget and pointed out that the Conseil Général had not suggested the means to meet such a shortfall. The déliberation was, therefore, not approved by the Government.

Next year, the need for reducing the land tax was even more acutely felt because the price of paddy had declined still further. The price of paddy which was sold at Rs. 4 per kalam in 1920 had fallen to Rs. 1 1/2, badly affecting the cultivators. Moreover, the export of paddy to Singapore and Colombo was also adversely affected due to competition from Indo-China. Only 84,000 tons of paddy were exported in 1931 as against, 1,29,000 tons in 1929.36 All these factors justified the demand for reducing the tax as a measure of relief to the cultivators. The Conseil Général also renewed its proposal for reducing the land tax by one-fourth. This time they suggested some increase in the rates of other taxes to meet partly the deficit. Even now the Government did not approve the déliberation of the Conseil Général on the ground that the equilibrium of the budget should not be disturbed due to the reduction of land tax.

The question was taken up again in 1933. Now the administration itself came forward with an alternative proposal. Instead of reducing directly the rate of land tax, they proposed a reduction of the net income of the land on the basis of which the rate was fixed.37 This was justified on the ground that the price of land had decreased everywhere following the sharp fall in the price of paddy. The proposed alternative was found to be suitable to reach the goal. Hence the Conseil Général too agreed to fix the net income per hectate at a lower level as follows:

#### Paddy Lands

	Rs.
1st class Average net income per hectare	127.500
2nd class Average net income per hectare	105.000
3rd class Average net income per hectare	82.500
4th class Average net income per hectare	60.000
5th class Average net income per hectare	37.500
6th class Average net income per hectare	15.000
Dry Lands	
1st class Average net income per hectare	101.250
2nd class Average net income per hectare	78.750
3rd class Average net income per hectare	60.000
4th class Average net income per hectare	41.250
5th class Average net income per hectare	26.250
6th class Average net income per hectare	11.250
Forest or uncultivable lands	
1st class Average net income per hectare	22.500
2nd class Average net income per hectare	15.000
3rd class Average net income per hectare	6.000

The rates of land tax worked out on the basis of this net income were fixed as follows:

Settlement				Tax per hectare		
		Class of land	Wet land	Dry land	Unculti- vated lands	
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
			Rs.P.	Rs.P.	Rs.P.	
Pondicherry		1st class	15.94	12.65	2.81	
		2nd class	13.12	9,84	1.87	
		3rd class	10.31	7.50	0.75	
•		4th class	7.50	5.15		
		5th class	4.69	3.28	_	
		6th class	1.87	1.40	_	
Karai kal		1st class	15.94	12.65	2.81	
		2nd class	13.12	8.90	1.87	
		3rd class	10.31	5.15	0.75	
		4th class	7.50	1.40	_	
		5th class	4.69	_		
		6th class	1.87		_	
Mahe		1st class	15.00	22.50	2.00	
		2nd class	12.00	17.50	1.00	
		3rd class	10.00	13.75	1.00	
		4th class	7.50	10.00		
		5th class	5.00	6.25	-	
Yanam		1st class	15.00	1.50	_	
· <del></del>		2nd class	10.31	0.75	_	
		3rd class	7.50		_	
		4th class	4.22		_	
		5th class	1.87			

The above rates of land tax were in force upto 1943. Then due to World War II, food stuff and other essential commodities became scarce everywhere. Consequently, the prices too increased. Paddy which was sold at the beginning of the war at Rs. 2 1/2 per kalam was sold at Rs. 4 1/2 in 1943. The price of one baram of groundnut rose from Rs. 24 to Rs. 80 and Rs. 85. Such was the case of other cereals also. Administrative expenditure also increased. Thus, the administration thought it was high time to raise the rates of land tax fixed ten years ago. A proposal was therefore submitted to the Conseil Général for doubling the rate of land tax. 38 Although the Conseil Général shared the views of the Government, the rate proposed by the Government was considered exhorbitant. The Conseil Général was agreeable to an increase in the rate by 40 per cent only. The déliberation of the Conseil Général, taken to this effect on 8 November 1943 was approved by the Government. This new rate was in force for a period of seven years.

The last change in the rate of land tax occurred in 1951. In its sitting of 20 September 1950, the Representative Assembly decided to raise the rate to 50 per cent from 40 per cent. 39 The new rates were made applicable with effect from 1 January 1951, and continues to be in force even now.

The income from land revenue since 1956 as furnished in the Administration Reports is given below:

			Rs.
1956–57	• •		4,16,382
1957-58			4,05,081
1958-59	• •		3,68,907
1959-60		• •	4,41,642
1960–61	• •		4,18,156
1961-62			3,45,869
1962–63	• •		3,14,481
1963–64			3,89,045
1964-65	• •		3,57,360
1965-66			4,59,878

		RS.
1966–67	 	4,70,221
1967–68	 	11,69,270
1968–69	 	3,94,735
1969–70	 	7,08,516
1970–71	 	6,47,319
1971-72	 	5,21,545
1972-73	 	5,99,123
197374	 إيد	5,89,983

The present rate of land tax in the Territory is low compared to those obtaining in the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu.

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#### System of collection:

The system of collection of land tax and other direct taxes under the French Administration was quite different from that in other parts of India. The assessment work and collection work were not carried out by one and the same authority. They were entrusted to different heads of offices viz. Chef du Service des Contributions and Trésorier-Payeur. The separation of the collection machinery was meant to safeguard the interests of tax payers and to avoid any coercion from the assessing authority in the matter of collection of tax.

For the purpose of assessment, the territory was divided into contrôles comparable to the taluks in Tamil Nadu. Each contrôle was placed in charge of a contrôleur equivalent to a Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar. Similarly, each contrôle was divided into areas consisting of a number of revenue villages covering an extent of 1,600 hectares on an average. Each such area was placed in-charge of a Surveillant du Domaine who was assisted by Agents auxiliaires. The following statement gives the organisational set-up at the headquarters and at the level of contrôles.

At the Headquarters

	Pondicherry	Karaikal	Mahe	Yanam
Chef du Service des Conti butions	r <b>i-</b> 1		_	_
Inspecteur des Contributions	2	1		-
Délégué du Chef du Bureau Cadastre	<b>du</b> 1	1	Délégué du Chef du Service des Contributions	Délégué du Chef du Service des Contributions
Arpenteurs (Surveyors)	8	3		_
	12	5	<del>-</del>	

# At the level of the Contrôles

Region	Contrôle (Tahsil Headquarters)		o, of rôleurs	No. of Surveillants du Domaine	No. of a Agents Auxiliaires ( <i>Talayarys</i> )
Don diehem.	H-114s	न ज्ञापन		1	2
Pondicherry	Pondicherry	• •	1	1	2
	Ozhukarai	••	1	4	. 8
	Villiyanur	• •	1	8	16
	Bahur	• •	1	7	14
Karaikal	Karaikal	••	1	8	16
Mahe			1	1	2
Yanam		••	1	1	2
			7	30	60

Annual demand rolls were prepared in French by the Contrôleurs revenue village-wise in accordance with the Règlement dated 15 February 1888 for every calendar year. The rolls consisted of two parts. The names of the land-owners and the tax to be paid by them were written in the first part. The second part was reserved for various notings by the percepteurs who formed the backbone of the collection machinery.

The contrôleurs sent the rolls to the Chief of the Contributions Department for his approval. The Chief of Contributions Department signed them and forwarded to the Bureau des Finances for obtaining the concurrence of the Governor. After obtaining the Governor's concurrence, the Bureau des Finances recorded the figures and transmitted the rolls to the Trésorier-Payeur in the first week of January every year.

The demand rolls in respect of all taxes were to be approved by the Governor (Art. 160 of the décret dated 10 December 1912). This power was subsequently delegated to the Chief of Contributions under the arrêté No. 95 F. dated 31 January 1955. From the date of reorganisation of the Department i.e. from 1-5-1969, this power is being exercised by the Deputy Collectors (Revenue) in their respective divisions (regions).

The control of the treasury was the responsibility of the Treasurer--cumpaymaster (Trésorier-Payeur). He was assisted by percepteurs who had their offices in the places mentioned below:

Trocks and

Region	Perception (Headquarters)	No. of repteurs	No. of Agent de recettes	No. of Huissiers
Pondicherry	Pondicherry	 1		
	Ozhukarai	 1	4	8
	Villiyanur	 1	6	12
	Bahur	 1	4	8
Karaikal	Karaikal	 1	3	6
Mahe	Mahe	 1	1	2
Yanam	Yanam	 1	1	2

In Pondicherry and Karaikal the land tax was to be paid in two instalments i.e. for the first crop (2/3) before 1st October and for the second crop (1/3) before 1 April in respect of wet lands. It had to be paid in a lumpsum not later than 1 April every year for all waste lands.

In Mahe, the land tax was recovered in eight equal instalments on the first of January, February, March, April, September, October, November and December every year.

As regards Yanam, the tax was payable in four instalments on the first of February, April, October and December every year.

The following are the details of procedure for the collection of taxes:

Demand notices were served on the tax payers in their homes. The date of serving the notice was noted on the counterfoil of the tax roll. The notice was in white paper and no fee was levied for serving those notices.

No coercive steps could be taken by the percepteur for the recovery of tax without serving a notice. In case, the assessee fails to pay the tax within 10 days from the date of service of the white notice, three kinds of coercive steps were prescribed for the collection of tax.

APPLE GUE

A summon or sommation printed on yellow paper was served on the defaulter after the expiry of 10 days. After three days, a notice called commandement printed on blue paper was served. If even after that the tax was not paid, attachment of the properties was effected as per the notice printed on red paper.

The crops were the first items to be attached. Movable properties except bed, clothes, tools of artisans, utensils and agricultural implements were attached next. Finally, the immovable properties were attached and sold through public auction after observing the prescribed formalities and after obtaining a court order.

The procedure outlined above was considered rather cumbersome and ineffective. There was delay in the preparation of assessment rolls and the issue

of demand notices to the tax payers. Under the French system, the onus was always with the Government to demand the arrears, and not with the tax payers to pay the arrears without any notice. This ineffective procedure naturally resulted in accumulation of vast arrears amounting to over Rs. 20 lakhs which were left uncollected for nearly two decades. Besides, the arrears left uncollected for more than five years lapsed unless the demand notices were issued in the meanwhile. Consequently, there was considerable loss of revenue to the Government. To make the system effective and quick and also to avoid any loss of revenue to the exchequer due to lapse, the Pondicherry Revenue Recovery Act, 1970 (Act No. 14 of 1970) was enforced with effect from 1 August 1970. This was drawn up on the model of the Madras Revenue Recovery Act, 1864 and is now in force throughout the Union Territory.

## Administrative reorganisation:

The office of the Trésorier-Payeur continued to exist till 1955. As per the arrêté of 11 May 1955 this office was merged with the Contributions Department. Following this order, the Chief of Contributions Department was placed in charge of both assessment and collection.

For the purpose of Revenue Administration, the Union Territory was declared with effect from 9 April 1967 as Revenue District with the Secretary dealing with Revenue as Collector. The four regions constituted a Revenue Division each. There was a Sub-Collector or Deputy Collector in charge of each division. The Chief of Contributions Department at Pondicherry was redesignated as Deputy Collector (Revenue) for the Pondicherry Division. Each division was divided into taluks or sub-taluks with a Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar for each Taluk or Sub-Taluk as the case may be. The taluks or sub-taluks were divided into firkas and revenue villages. Villages were regrouped into firkas on the basis of the proposals of the Directorate of Survey.

Revenue Inspectors were placed in charge of a firka each comprising eight to ten villages. Karnams attended to both assessment and collection work in each village. Except in a few cases, a karnam was generally in charge of a village.

The following statement shows the total number of revenue divisions, firkas, taluks and villages in the Territory.

SI. No.	Name of the revenue division	Name of taluk/ sub-taluk	Total No. of firkas	Total No. of villages in each taluk/ sub-taluk	Total No. of Karnams in each taluk
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. 1	Pondicherry	Pondicherry Taluk	. 4	20	23
		Villiyanur Sub-taluk .	. 4	39	33
		Bahur Sub-taluk .	3	22	22
2.	Karaikal	Karaikal Taluk .	. 6	37	36
3.	Mahe	Mahe Sub-taluk	. 1	5	2
4.	Yanam	Yanam Sub-taluk .	. 1	6	3

Shortly after the re-organisation of the Revenue Department i.e. with effect from 1 April 1968, the Treasury Offices were transferred to the control of the Pay and Accounts Officer (Director of Treasuries). The institution of Contrôleurs and Percepteurs, however, continued for purposes of assessment and collection work till 1 May 1969, when the new set up was introduced.

The Revenue Department also functions as the collecting agent under the Cotton Cess Act 1926. The receipts are credited into the Central Government. As Excise Commissioner for the purpose of Medicinal and Toilet Preparation Act and rules made thereunder, the Chief of Contributions Department is responsible for the overall administration of the Act and the collection of excise duties levied by the Central Government from time to time. Under the Molasses Control Order, 1961 as extended to the Union Territory with effect from 7 June 1965 the Department regulates the possession and sale of molasses and makes allocation of molasses to actual users as well as to authorised wholesalers.

The Department is also responsible for land acquisition in the Territory. The Revenue Department also functions as the Collection Agency of loans granted by the Industries Department, the Block Development Offices and the Agriculture Department.

The items constituting the central revenues are administered by the Central Government direct. However, in cases where the officers of the Central Government cannot themselves recover the amount without resorting to the coercive processes, they make requests to the Revenue Department for recovery under the Revenue Recovery Act.

#### Karaikal:

Prior to 1788 the land revenue system in Karaikal was different from that of Pondicherry. While the land-holders were ordinary tenants in the settlement of Pondicherry, individual land-holders of Karaikal, like their neighbours of Thanjavur District owned the lands with full proprietory rights. The land tax was paid in kind. Half of the harvest went to the Government and the other half to the land-holder. Soon after taking over possession of the Karaikal settlement, the French Government undertook a general study of the rights of the people over the lands, the nature of the land, the kind of production, the expenses for the collection of kist, etc. However, in order to reconcile the royal interests with those of the inhabitants of the territory, the administration introduced a crop settlement for the royal possessions in Karaikal on 15 May 1788.

As per the conditions of this settlement, the inhabitants of Karaikal were generally recognised as fulfledged owners of lands in their possession. In all 15 per cent of the gross produce of the wet lands went to meet the wages of the agricultural labour i.e. for the harvest of crops and for the payment of kalavazhy, soudandiram, kuruvy maniom, artamaniam, velivazhy iraivazhy, etc. The remaining 85 per cent was equally shared by the Government and the land-holder.

The dry lands were assessed to a tax known as pathukattu or ten bundles of paddy payable in two instalments, 2/5 at the end of the harvest of khar crop and 3/5 at the end of the harvest of samba crop. The garden lands were exempt from land tax. This settlement lasted till 1854. The landholders were content with the yield of the land. The land owners were not under any obligation to pay any fixed tax. Reluctant as they were to pay more to the government they made no efforts to improve their lands. They were satisfied merely by sharing the poor yield with the government.

The above system of collection of land tax in kind was found defective. The system, instead of promoting agricultural development, led the farmers to a state of lethargy. Hence the Government decided to abolish the crop settlement of 1788 and passed the arrêté of 27 April 1854. The new arrêté provided for the collection of land revenue in cash with effect from the fasli year 1264 irrespective of the yield or the nature of land.

The above order classified the lands into wet lands, dry lands and cultivable *poromboke* lands. The wet lands and the dry lands were again subdivided into (1) cultivated wet lands and waste wet lands, (2) cultivated dry lands and waste dry lands.

The tax in kind, as already mentioned, was replaced by a fixed amount to be paid in cash by each village, proportionate to the extent of land and according to the composition of the soil, i.e. as per the above classification. The tax was calculated as follows:

- (a) For cultivated wet lands 1/3 of the average yield of one vely during the preceding 10 years.
- (b) For waste wet lands 1/4 of the average yield during the preceding 10 years.
- (c) For cultivated dry lands, the tax known as pathukattu paid since the year 1836.
- (d) For waste dry lands, 5 francs 90 centimes per vely. For poromboke lands, 2 francs per vely.

The conversion into cash was made at the rate of one franc 30 centimes per kalam of paddy and in the local currency at the rate of 2 francs 40 centimes per rupee.\*

<sup>\*</sup> It was fixed in francs because at that time the budget was drawn up only in francs. However, the collection was to be made only in rupees after conversion. At that time, one rupee was equal to 2 frs. 40. The amount worked out at this rate was fixed at Rs. 70,000.

The total revenue worked out as above amounted to 1,70,000 francs per annum to be shared by all the villages of Karaikal. The order of 23 September 1854 fixed the tax to be paid by each village and each of its holdings. Village registers were maintained to show the names of the mirasdar, the extent of lands owned by him in the village with the description of the class of land, the amount of tax in cash, etc. Following the introduction of this order, arrangements were made to open a tax register for each village. The collection was made on the basis of this register.

The above amount of 1,70,000 francs was to be collected invariably every year from the village. While fixing this amount, the Government also stipulated that on no account this limit should be exceeded. Up to 1884, the whole system appeared to work well. Since 1884 the value of rupee began to depreciate. Between 1885 - 1895 the exchange rate had fallen from 2.40 fr. to 1.66 fr. per rupee. In spite of these developments in the international exchange rate, the Administration continued to collect the same amount of Rs. 70,000 orginally fixed. Soon it was realised that under the new exchange rate, the Administration was subjected to a loss of revenue. A proposal was, therefore, brought forward by the Government to raise the amount fixed to Rs. 85,000. The Conseil Général did not agree to the proposal. The members of the Conseil Général wanted time to study the problem further. The matter was postponed from year to year for one reason or another. At last, as per the délibération of 27 January 1920, the Conseil Général agreed to the proposal to raise the amount to Rs. 93,000. In the meanwhile i.e. by 1919 the survey works at Karaikal came to a close. The Conseil Général reconsidered the entire question and decided to scrap the old settlement of dividing the land tax between the villages and the mirasdars and introduced the mode of levying land tax direct from each individual on the basis of their holdings. Based on this settlement land revenue was collected till the year 1921 when the classification of lands in Karaikal was completed and approved by the Governor.

In 1933 the rate of the land tax in Karaikal was brought on par with those in Pondicherry.40 (vide page 951). \*

<sup>\*</sup> The rate of tax was fixed as in Pondicherry at 1/8 of the produce of the land per hectare.

### Mahe:

Prior to 1854 land tax was not in force in Mahe and in the suburban villages. The French Government decided to repeal the different laws in order to bring uniformity in the levy on land tax. An order was, therefore, issued on 20 May 1854. It prescribed that all the lands in Mahe region should be planted with fruit bearing trees in accordance with the conditions of the soil. If the land was found barren and unproductive, the owner of the property or the assignee was required to submit to the Government a declaration stating the facts. The Government enquired into the merits of the declaration and granted, if found true, remission of land tax.

In case, the owner of the lands failed to raise any plantation on the lands, a notice was issued to him giving him two years time to fulfil the conditions. If, on the expiry of the time limit, it was found that the conditions prescribed by the provisions of the Government order had not been fulfilled, the land was sold through public auction. If there were no bids, the land was transferred to the Government's account.

As per mamool, only the yielding trees were assessed to land tax. Trees which did not yield or had ceased to yield and were destroyed, were exempted from tax. Coconut trees were divided into two classes in conformity with the lands on which they were raised. The wet lands were called attaveppu. The dry lands were called karaveppu. Attaveppu lands were subdivided into two classes. Karuveppu lands were subdivided into three classes.

A survey of the various kinds of trees planted in the holdings was conducted once every five years. If, owing to accidents or some fortuitous circumstances, the trees had perished, the officer-in-charge of collection of tax was to be informed of the loss. A committee consisting of the adhikary, menon and two prominent men belonging to different castes other than that of the petitioner inspected the sites and proposed a remission in proportion to the extent of loss.

During the quinquennial survey, the holdings were assessed to an annual land tax as follows:

#### Coconut trees

Attaveppu	1st quality per tree	in fertile land in less fertile land.	••	34 c 29	aches
	2nd ", ",	in fertile land in less fertile land	••	29 24	"
Karaveppu	1st ", ",	in fertile land in less fertile land.	••	24 22	"
	2nd " "	in fertile land in less fertile land	••	20 17	"
	3rd ,, ,,	in fertile land in less fertile land.		15 12	"
	Jac	k trees			
Tax per tree	Areca	trees		48	"
		in fertile land		09	,,
Attaveppu	1st and 2nd qualitie for every tree			07	,,
Karaveppu	1st quality for every tree	in fertile land in less fertile land.		06 05	,,

The valuation committee fixed the rate of tax in the presence of the owner of the land. The committee was assisted in the case of lands belonging to Nayars, by two prominent members chosen from among Moppla and Thiyya communities, and in the case of lands belonging to whites by two prominent members chosen from Moppla or Thiyya community and in the case of lands owned by all other castes, by members chosen from communities other than that of the proprietor.

The tax was to be paid in eight instalments on the first of January, February, March, April, September, October, November and December every year. A register showing the kind and nature of the land, the age and the quality of the coconut trees was maintained in the Revenue Office. Soon after the coconut trees of karaveppu lands reached the age of 50, new trees were to be raised in between the old trees in such a way that by the time the old trees stopped yielding, the new trees began to yield. In the case of ataveppu lands new trees were to be planted when the old trees reached 30 years. The planting of new trees was compulsory. In case of default, the lands were to be sold in public auction. If there were no bids, the lands were to be taken over by the Government.

The wet lands known as *varges* were assessed every five years to a land tax equal to 1/3 of the value of the produce deducting the quantity required for seeds during the year.

#### Yanam:

Till 1871, the cultivators were only lessees of the lands which they cultivated. They could not carry out any improvement in the land holdings as owners of lands. The lease deeds were executed for a short or long period with the option to renew the lease deed after the expiry of the lease period.

With a view to considering the right of ownership to the holders of the lands and to collect land tax at a uniform rate, the government passed the arrêté dated 24 May 1871.

As per the provisions of this arrêté, all lands in the possesion of the lessees, the Government and those assigned to private persons were divided into three categories:

- 1. Wet lands or paddy fields.
- 2. Dry lands.
- 3. Grazing lands or fallow lands.

In order to confer the right of ownership, all Government lands and lands leased out to the cultivators were openly auctioned in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Auction Rules Book or Cahier des charges.

The land tax was the same for wet and dry lands. The grazing lands could be converted into wet or dry lands subject to the payment of 1/3 of land tax on the first year and 2/3 of land tax on the second year. From the third year, the entire tax would become payable. Permission of the Government had to be obtained to plant fruit bearing trees on all the three categories of lands.

The auction amount was paid along with the annual land tax in five annual instalments. Land-holders who were successful in the auction had the right to raise any number of crops and grow any kind of crop in their holdings.

The land tax was fixed at 1/4 of the net yield. The yield was expressed in measures under use in the District of Godavary like kandy, garse, coujous and mamkas. The last measure was equal to about one litre. The price of one kandy was Rs. 150, one garse Rs. 50 and one mamka 4 paise.

The lands which were assigned, continued to be enjoyed by the occupier provided the holdings were duly registered with the 'domaine' alongwith their title deeds.

The grazing lands were assessed at the rate of 12 francs per annum per *kandy*. They could not be converted into wet lands or dry lands without the permission of the 'domaine'.

This system was in force till 1925. Though some steps were taken even as early as 1922 to introduce the system of classification and taxation in Yanam as prevalent in Pondicherry, a final decision could be arrived at only in 1925 when the Conseil Général in its sitting of 5 December 1925 decided to classify the lands and to fix the rates of land tax as follows:—

Categories ar classes	ıd	Net revenue per hectare	Tax in rupees per hectare	
 Cultivable lands	, .	Rs.	Rs.	
1st class		160	20	
2nd class		110	13.750	
3rd class		80	10	
4th class		45	5.625	
5th class	·	20	2.500	
Pasture lands :				
1st class		16	2	
2nd class		8_	1	

This was approved by the décret dated 16 April 1926.

Thereafter the revision of land tax was effected only in 1933 when the question was examined for the entire territory as a whole. In compliance with the decision of reducing the average net income per hectare to a lower level, the Conseil Général in its sitting of 24 December 1933 decided to fix the net income for lands in Yanam as follows:—

	le lands	
454	의 되시다	Rs.
1st class	••	120.00
2nd class		82.00
3rd class	••	60.00
4th class		33.75
5th class	• •	15.00
Pasture	lands	
1st class	• •	12.00
2nd class	• •	6.00

Based on this schedule of income, the rate of land tax was fixed at 12.5 per cent of the net income as in Pondicherry and Karaikal. Subsequently, when the rates were modified for Pondicherry and Karaikal in 1943 and 1951, the same rates were applied to Yanam region as well.

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## II. Land reforms

The agrarian problem is not the same in all the four regions. But before proceeding to recount the steps taken by the administration to tackle the agrarian problem in the various regions, it would be appropriate to spotlight attention on the agrarian conditions in the Territory.

In 1961 the population dependant mainly on agriculture stood at 60,861. Of this, the total number of peasant proprietors was 22,054. The number of tenants and categories thereof was 38,807. The number of tenants and peasant proprietors increased to 62,934 by 1971.

Lands were cultivated by owners, tenant-cum-owners, tenants and share-croppers. The terms were mostly oral (Mukhjabani) and adherence to the terms of the contract depended entirely on the will of the land-owners. The system of share cropping known as varom was in vogue only in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions which covered almost 98 per cent of the total area of the Territory. This was not the practice in the other two regions. In certain cases, written agreements were entered into between the landlords and the tenants. These were normally written on a 75 np. stamped paper and registered in the registration wing of the Revenue Department (Bureau d'Enregistrement). Disputes were settled through conciliation. Conflicts of a major character alone were brought to the civil courts to be dealt with under the French Civil Procedure Code. The National Council for Applied Economic Research pointed out in its report that this system led to undue exploitation of the poorer sections of the society and adversely affected output.

The pattern of distribution of holdings also showed that most of the land was owned by a few big landlords or farmers and that the bulk of other cultivators had only small patches of land. There were more agricultural labourers than cultivators in Karaikal and Pondicherry. The reverse was the case in Mahe. The overall picture was that land-holdings were concentrated in a smaller number of people in Karaikal and Pondicherry.41

Cultivation of land is mostly attended to by the so called low-castes although ownership of land is vested mostly in the hands of the upper castes. Big land-owners depend mostly on hired labour. Hence the number of agricultural labourers is large in the Territory.

The proportion of agricultural labourers to the total agricultural workers was 24 per cent in India and 30 per cent in Madras, but it was as high as 64 per cent in Pondicherry in 1961. This has increased to a little more than 64 per cent according to the 1971 census. The fact that emerges is that cultivation is mostly done by landless labourers in this Territory.

As for land holdings the N.C.A.E.R. pointed out (1965) that the average size of holdings in Pondicherry was one hectare and that lands were unevenly distributed. Out of the total number of owners (39,225 in 1961) 61 per cent had holdings below half an hectare, another 18 per cent between 0.50 hectare and one hectare and another 11 per cent between one and two hectares. Thus 90 per cent owned land holdings of the size of two hectares. In other words, 90 per cent of the agricultural population owned 48 per cent of the total land and the remaining 10 per cent owned 52 per cent of the land.

The National Council for Applied Economic Research said in 1965 that it was very essential to introduce land reform legislation in the Territory as a measure of social justice. It called for the early completion of tenancy records and for the conferment of full rights to the tenant. Referring to the absence of any legislation fixing the fair rent to be paid by the tenants, the Council pointed out that it should not be more than 20 per cent of the gross produce. In the opinion of the Council there has been no move to introduce other reforms such as reservation and demarcation of resumable lands and conferment of ownership on tenants in respect of non-resumable lands.

The report further said: "The extremely uneven distribution of land holding, the high pressure of population on land, and the rigid social pattern where the high caste people own most of the land but do not cultivate it, call for fixing ceilings on land-holdings. Unless there is a redistribution of the cultivated land by this process, the bulk of the small land-owners and the landless labourers, who are the real tillers, will continue to be poor. Productivity of very big holdings will also increase after redistribution, since farming could then be more intensive and personal. Therefore, the legislation fixing the land ceilings must be passed soon."

It appears that unless such measures are introduced in Tamil Nadu it would be difficult for the Territory to go ahead in this direction. Defective land records, where the ownership of tenants is not properly registered, is also said to be another reason for the slow progress of land reforms in the

Territory. Commenting on this, the Council said that although there might be some validity in this plea on political and administrative grounds, that was not a sufficient reason for holding these progressive measures. The Council further pointed out that if they were not introduced in time, the benefit of all agricultural planning will accrue only to a small section of the land owning class and the existing economic disparities will only grow sharper.

The land reform measures introduced in the country after Independence, naturally had an impact on the agriculturists in this Territory and roused their socio-political consciousness. But it must be noted that until de jure merger of the French establishments (16 August 1962) the Representative Assembly had little power to make laws. The administration had, therefore, to take some urgent measures under the Foreign Jurisdiction Act. Whenever such need arose, the pattern of land reform laws in force in the adjoining areas were taken as models for all the regions except Yanam.

Land reform measures should necessarily cover such aspects as abolition of intermediaries, tenancy reforms, imposition of ceiling, consolidation of holdings, besides prevention of fragmentation.

There were no zamindars or intermediaries in the Territory as understood under the zamindari system. No reform measure was, therefore, found necessary to abolish the system of intermediaries in the Territory.

With this broad survey of the agrarian conditions in the Territory as a background, it would now be useful to recount the land reform measures taken since merger in respect of each region.

## Pondicherry:

Some years after merger, the Administration came forward to pass a self-contained Tenants Protection Act for Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions instead of merely amending and extending the Karaikal Tenants Protection Order to Pondicherry and Yanam regions. However, pending the introduction of such a measure, the Karaikal Tenants Protection Order was extended to Pondicherry with effect from 30 March 1960. In order to replace this order and to introduce a common tenants protection law for Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam, the Pondicherry and Karaikal Cultivating Tenants (Protection) Bill (1965) and the Pondicherry and Karaikal Cultivating Tenants (Payment of

Fair Rent) Bill (1965) were framed and forwarded to the Government of India. The Government of India suggested some changes which were found to be more radical than the provisions of the Bill. The matter was discussed between the representatives of the Government of India and the Administration. Following the talks, the bills were suitably revised and then sent to the Government of India.

In August 1969, a Working Group on Land Reforms was constituted with a view to pushing through land reform measures in the Territory. In the meanwhile, the draft bills sent to the Government of India met with further objections. However, finally it was received with the approval of the Government of India.

The revised Pondicherry Cultivating Tenants (Protection) Bill, 1970 and the Pondicherry Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Bill, 1970 were introduced on 5 April 1970. The Fair Rent Bill was passed on 5 October 1970 and the Tenants Protection Bill, the very next day. In December 1970, the Lieutenant-Governor reconstituted the Working Group and formed a High Level Committee on Land Reforms with the Chief Minister as Chairman and the Secretary (Revenue Department) as Member-Secretary to review once in two months the progress of land reforms in the Territory.

The Pondicherry Cultivating Tenants (Protection) Act, 1970:

This Act was brought into force on 10 April 1971 and the provisions of this Act were made applicable only to Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions. 42 Relevant rules were framed under the Act and notified on 17 May 1971.

The Act provided protection to tenants from eviction by landlords. This protection was not, however, available to those tenants who were in arrears of rent which accrued after 21 March 1970, to those who were guilty of any negligent or injurious act to land or crop, to those who had diverted the land to non-agricultural use and to those who denied the title of the landlord. Besides laying down the procedure for regulating surrenders and abandonment of tenancy the Act also provided for the restoration, on application to the Revenue Court, of the tenant who was actually in possession of land on 1 December 1969 but was not in possession of it at the commencement

of this Act. The Act, nonetheless, protects the right of the landlord to resume for personal cultivation, land not exceeding one half of the land leased out to the cultivating tenant, although he cannot do so, if the land he owns exceeds 5-1/3 hectares of wet lands, or when he is assessed to sales tax during 1967-68 or holds land as tenant of wet land exceeding two hectares.

The Pondicherry Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1970:\*

This Act, given effect to on 1 April 1971, will be in force for a period of five years. Under this Act, fair rent was fixed as follows:

- (1) in the case of wet land at 40 per cent of the average gross produce or its value in money;
- (2) in the case of wet land where irrigation was supplemented by lift water at 35 per cent of the average gross produce or its value in money;
- (3) in the case of other categories of land at 33-1/3 per cent of the average gross produce or its value in money. These rates were subject to slight variations. The cultivating tenants had the right to apply to the Rent Court for fixation of fair rent, notwithstanding any agreement between the tenants and the land-owners.

This Act was made applicable to all the three regions except, Mahe.

As per the Act, Rent Courts for Pondicherry, Villiyanur, Bahur, Karaikal and Yanam and a Rent Tribunal each in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam were constituted. †

The Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Protection from Eviction) Act, 1970: \$

The Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Protection from Eviction) Act, 1970 was the third important measure introduced. The Act which received the assent of the President on 26 February 1971 sought to

<sup>•</sup> This is similar to the Madras Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956.

<sup>†</sup> Notification No. 6896/70-E dated 22 March 1971.

<sup>†</sup> This Act is similar to the Tamil Nadu Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Protection from Eviction) Act, 1961.

prevant the eviction of tenants from their homestead. Although it provided security of tenure to the occupants, it does not confer any right of lease as under section 56 of the Mahe Land Reforms Act. This Act will be in force for a period of 10 years with effect from 26 February 1971. On the expiry of this period, the provisions of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 as applicable under section 2 of the Pondicherry General Clauses Act, 1965, is to be applied as if this Act has then been repealed by a Pondicherry Act.

The Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Act, 1973.

the Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu from Eviction) Act, 1970 provided security of tenure, it did not confer ownership right on the tenants. However, pursuant to the policy of the Government to bring forward progressive land reform measures, the Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Bill, 1973 was brought forward in continuation of the Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Protection from Eviction) Act, 1970 (Act 4 of 1971). The Bill as passed by the Legislative Assembly on 31 October 1973 was given effect from 1 December 1974. Under this bill any agriculturist or agricultural labourer who was not having a dwelling house or house site or a hut of his own and was occupying a kudiyiruppu on 27 March 1972 either as tenant or as licensee, shall, from the date of commencement of the Act, be the owner of such kudiyiruppu and such kudiyiruppu shall vest in him free from all encumbrances. The compensation payable to the owners of kudiyiruppu was a hundred time the rate of assessment for that land. The compensation will be paid by the Government in the first instance on behalf of the kudiviruppudar. The amount of compensation will be recoverable from the kudiyiruppudars in instalments later. 43

## The Pondicherry Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1973:

The Pondicherry Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1973 was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 2 November 1973 and enforced in the Territory with effect from 14 October 1974. 44 It is applicable to Pondicherry and Karaikal regions only. This Act fixes the ceiling on agricultural land holdings as well as the ceiling area for cultivating tenants. The ceiling on land provided for every person or family consisting of not more than five members, i.e. six standard hectares as on 21 January 1971. The surplus land acquired under this Act will be assigned to landless persons. The Government will collect the

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value of the land either in mstalments or in a lumpsum. The Sub-Collector, Pondicherry and the Deputy Collector (Revenue), Karaikal, were declared as Authorised Officers for implementing the Act. Religious trusts of a public nature and religious institutions were exempted from the purview of the Act.

#### Karaikal:

Karaikal region has a total cultivable area of 10,500 hectares. There were in all about 2,000 pannaiyals cultivating about 8,000 acres (3200 hectares) in the region. The main crops grown are kuruvai (rice) in about 3340 hectares and samba in about 7300 hectares. Two-thirds of the produce goes to the and-owner and only one-third to the farmer.

The Karaikal Cultivating Tenants Protection Order, 1958:

Soon after merger the question of extending the Tanjore Tenants and Pannaiyal Protection Act, 1952 engaged the attention of the Administration. But even in anticipation of the introduction of the law, eviction of tenants started in Karaikal at the instance of landlords. The landlords resorted to direct cultivation with or without the assistance of hired labourers. In these circumstances it became necessary to pass the Karaikal Cultivating Tenants Protection Order, 1958 urgently (8 August 1958) under the powers of the Foreign Jurisdiction Act with a view to preventing such evictions pending application of the tenancy laws. 45 The life of this order was extended from time to time till it was ultimately repealed and replaced by the Karaikal Tenants Protection Order, 1960 which came into force on 30 March 1960. Under this order no cultivating tenant was liable to be evicted unless he used or attempted to use the land for a purpose other than agriculture or horticulture or deliberately neglected to take steps within reasonable time to cultivate the land or had not paid the rent within three months from the date of accrual. It must however be noted that agreements between the tenant and the landlord were very often entered into orally. As such the question of tenancy rights were often subjected to dispute. Tenancy certificates which could be issued by revenue authorities could no longer be issued with the changes introduced in the revenue set-up in May 1969 as they had no statutory authority to do so. Subsequently, however, the revenue authorities were given instructions to conduct preliminary enquiries and to give tenancy certificates so that those tenants who were dragged to courts could have the added weight of tenancy certificates issued by the revenue authorities. 46

This order was repealed and the Pondicherry Cutivating Tenants Protection Act, 1970 came into force on 10 April 1971.

The Karaikal Pannaiyal Protection Act, 1968:

The constitution of а Special Committee by the Pondicherry Representative Assembly (20 October 1960) to report on the need to extend the Tanjore Pannaiyal Act\* to Karaikal came as an indication of the interest shown by the representatives of the people over the plight of pannayals in Karaikal. After about six years, the Act came into force on 1 May 1966. The Act and its provisions were made applicable only to Karaikal as it exclusively dealt with the question of agricultural labourers called pannayals and their wages. Although the Act defined a pannayal as a person engaged by the land-owner to look after the farm and do all cultivation work on the land whenever necessary in the course of an entire agricultural year (i.e. year commencing from the first of May) it did not include those who were engaged either casually or for a specific item of work. 47

The wages of pannayals were determined as:

- (1) Two marakkals\*\* of paddy for every adult male member.
- (2) One marakkal of paddy for every adult female member, and
- (3) three-fourths of a marakkal of paddy for every worker not being an adult.

A pannayal was not to be dismissed by a land-owner. But a land-owner or a pannayal may terminate the engagement by giving a minimum notice of 12 months ending with the expiry of the agricultural year or by mutual agreement. When, however, a land-owner terminates the engagement, he has to pay to the pannayal six months wages or such amounts as may be agreed upon.

<sup>\*</sup> This was passed by the Madras Government in 1952.

<sup>\*\* 1</sup> marakkal of paddy (kuruvai) — 2.5 kg.

<sup>1</sup> marakkal of paddy (samba) — 2.4 kg.

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The provisions of this Act did not apply to land-holders having less than one veli (2 2/3 hectares) whether wet or dry land irrigated from government source, or three velis (8 hectares) of dry land not irrigated from government source. The jurisdiction of the Civil Court or the Administrative Court was barred in regard to any order or decision or award passed by any Revenue Court or any officer under this Act. As a post-script it will suffice to add the comment of an authority on the subject: In actual fact, however, the implementation of the law seems to have adversely affected the pannayals. Most of them have been converted into daily wage earners with the result that the Act has been rendered ineffective. 48

## The Karaikal Agricultural Labourer Fair Wages Act, 1970:

This was another measure of some importance under which agricultura labourers were to be assured of fair wages. The bill was passed by the Assembly on 12 June 1970, and was brought into force on 10 September 1970.

This Act was to remain in force for a period of three years and upon the expiry of the Act, the provisions of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, as applicable under section 2 of the Pondicherry General Clauses Act, 1965 was to apply as if this Act had then been repealed by a Pondicherry Act. The agricultural labourer was defined as a person who performed manual labour on the agricultural land of the land-owner. It did not include a pannayal as defined by the Karaikal Pannayal Protection Act, 1966 and also persons engaged in household work of the land owner or for cleaning the cattle yard or for storing manure. Complaints under the Act will be heard by the Conciliation Officer, who will be an officer of the Revenue Department not below the rank of a Tahsildar as notified in the Gazette. It will be his responsibility to ensure the payment of fair wages. An appeal against the order of the Conciliation Officer will lie with the Revenue Court and the decision of the Revenue Court will be final subject to revision by the District Court.

The Act fixed the wages for all kinds of work during the cultivation season at Rs. 3 or six litres of paddy and Rs. 1.25 per day for men and Rs. 1.75 or five litres of paddy and 25 np. per day for women. As per the Act, work did not include ploughing where bullocks and ploughs were provided by the agricultural labourer. For harvesting, the wage was fixed at six litres out of every fifty four litres of harvested paddy. For the purpose of arriving at the wages, no deduction was to be made either for *kalavady* or for any other expenses out of the harvest till the wages were paid.

The Pondicherry Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1970 was made applicable to this region with effect from 1 April 1971.

#### Mahe:

The Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929:

As a first step and as an interim measure, the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929 was extended to Mahe with effect from 16 June 1958. The extension of the Act to Mahe conferred on the tenants in general security of tenure and provided for the regulation of rent. Eviction of tenants was prohibited except on grounds specified in the Act. There was, however, no provision for conferment of ownership rights on tenants. 49

The Mahe (Stay of Eviction Proceedings) Regulation, 1962:

In the meanwhile rapid changes were taking place in the adjoining State of Kerala. In the March 1961 session, the Representative Assembly passed a resolution to extend the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act to Mahe at an early date. 50 Shortly after, the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act was declared invalid by the Kerala High Court. In the meanwhile, instances of eviction of tenants came to public notice. The absence of a Legislative Assembly vested with power to initiate legislation, necessitated the passing of the Mahe (Stay of Eviction Proceedings) Regulation, 1962 by the President on 24 April 1962 in order to give protection to the tenants from eviction by land-owners. This was to be in force for a period of six months. The period expired on 28 October 1962. This was subsequently replaced by the Mahe (Stay of Eviction Proceedings) Regulation, 1963 the life of which was extended by the Mahe Stay of Eviction Proceedings (Amendment) Act, 1964 upto 31 December 1965. The amendment made specific provision for regulating surrenders and restoration of evicted tenants. The period was extended from year to year upto 31 December 1968 when a comprehensive measure called the Mahe Land Reforms Act, 1968 (Act No. 1 of 1968) was passed. With its enactment, the Mahe (Stay of Eviction Proceedings) Regulation, 1963 and section 140 of the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929 stood repealed.

### The Mahe Land Reforms Act, 1968:

The Act mainly covers the question of land tenancies and ceiling on land holdings. Section 8 of the Act lays down that every tenant shall have fixity of tenure in respect of his holding and that no land from the holding shall be resumed except as provided in sections 9 to 17.

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The Act also prescribed, among other things, the fair rent payable, (sections 33-34). The Land Tribunal to be constituted under the provision of the Act was to determine the fair rent in respect of the holding at the rates specified in the Act on an application by the landlord or a tenant (sections 37 and 47).

Section 56 of the Act lays down that subject to the provisions of the Act, all rights which a tenant has in his holdings shall be heritable and alienable. Further, under section 61, a cultivating tenant has the right to purchase the land-lord's rights.

The cultivating tenant (including a tenant of kudiyiruppu entitled to fixity of tenure is free to purchase the right, title and interest of the land-owner and the intermediaries in respect of non-resumable areas (Sections 66 to 77). The Act prohibited the eviction of kudikidappukars from the homestead except under certain circumstances. In case the landlord wanted to shift the kudikidappu, because of its inconvenient location, he was to provide to the kudikidappukaran the same extent of land, the price of homestead and the cost of shifting the kudikidappu. He had heritable but not alienable rights (Section 86) The act clearly prohibited the eviction of kudikidappukars belonging to the scheduled castes.

Provision is also made for constituting a Land Board at the territorial level and a Land Tribunal at the regional level for implementing the provision of the Act.

All the provisions of the Act were assented to by the President on 22 March 1968. All provisions except those relating to land ceiling were brought into force with immediate effect. The rules framed under the Act were notified on 1 February 1969. A Land Tribunal was constituted and a Deputy Tahsildar was appointed for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the Act.51

Section 2 (ii) of the Act was given effect to by notifying the agricultural year in the Official Gazette No. 39, dated 30 September 1969. Under the Act, the Government was required to take steps to prepare the tables indicating the maximum and minimum rates of compensation to be awarded for improvements and also the prices of produce, etc. contemplated under section 23 24, 49 and 50. Notification under sections 23 and 24 relating to maximum and

minimum rates of compensation and tables showing prices of produce, etc. was issued on 25 November 1969. 52 Another notification under Section 50 of the Act furnishing the statistics of gross produce of different crops in different areas was published on 4 November 1969.53

The notification under section 30 (1) of the Act was published on 15 October 1969.54

It has been claimed that by the issue of these notifications certain rights and interests have been given to small holders in their capacity of cultivating tenants. These rights are free from all encumbrances. About 80 tenants are said to have been benefited by these measures. Under this Act as many as 159 persons are also said to have been conferred homestead rights upto August 1971.55

As for the provisions of the Act covering land ceiling, it will suffice to say that section 92 fixed the ceiling area between 15 acres (6 hectares) and 30 acres (12 hectares). It provides for compensation equal to 55 per cent of the market value of the land and improvement.

The question of disposal of surplus lands will arise only after the provisions relating to land ceiling are given effect to and the surplus determined. However, the act stipulated that no person should be assigned more than 5 acres.

One interesting aspect is that, this Act contains as many as 140 sections. This piece of legislation is said to be too comprehensive and complex for the people who are not accustomed to such intriguing and involved provisions of law. A doubt has also been raised whether all the problems of land reforms which are provided in the Act, exist in the enclave and whether they need urgent attention of the Territorial Administration by such a comprehensive legislation.

#### Yanam:

So far as Yanam is concerned, no separate body of legislation has been enacted. As already referred to, the Pondicherry Cultivating Tenants Protection Act and the Pondicherry Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act were made applicable to Yanam region on par with Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. Separate bill for fixation of land ceiling was under preparation.\*

<sup>\*</sup> As on 12 March 1974.

Consolidation of holdings and land ceiling:

The question of consolidation of holdings in the Territory seems to be held up for want of a Land Ceiling Act for all the four regions.

Moreover, the question of consolidation of holdings has to take into account the requirement of soil conservation, efficient water management, drainage and provision of land for road purposes. The various regions of the Territory being surrounded by other States, it is not considered feasible by the Government to initiate action in this regard on its own accord. Nonctheless, the Government of Tamil Nadu is reported to have been requested to furnish details of measures contemplated in this direction as a proposal is said to be under the consideration of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The question of prevention of fragmentation which is linked to the problem of consolidation can be taken up only after the completion of consolidation of holdings in the Territory.

### III. Other sources of revenue

Income Tax (Impôt Général sur le Revenu):

The Conseil Général decided to introduce an Impôt général sur le revenu in the Territory at its sitting of 9 December 1948. This was approved by the dècret of 9 May 1949, and given effect to by the arrêté of 30 June 1949. As per the provisions of this arrêté the tax was due on the 1st of January every year, from all persons, associations of persons, commercial or industrial companies deriving income from the territory, without distinction of status or nationality.

The rates of income-tax were revised as follows in accordance with the deliberation dated 20 September 1951.

	Rs.		Percentage of tax
For the first	 2,000		Nil
For the next	 3,000	• •	2
For the next	 5,000	• •	4
For the next	 10,000		6

	Rs.		Percentage of tax
For the next	 10,000	• •	8
For the next	 20,000		12
For the next	 50,000		16
For the next	 1,00,000		22
For over and above	 2,00,000		25

The taxable income was computed after allowing the following deductions from the total income:

- (a) professional expenses upto 10 per cent of the salaries;
- (b) Provident Fund Contribution and payment towards Life Insurance premium to the extent of 8 per cent of the salaries;
- (c) direct taxes like land tax, house tax, vehicle tax, radio licence fee paid by the assessee.

Moreover, the assessment was made on the taxable income as computed above for each slab and not on the aggregate taxable income. For each dependent of the assessee viz. wife, children, mother and father, a further deduction of 5 per cent was made in the tax computed on the taxable income. With the extension of the Indian Income-Tax Act with effect from 1 April 1963, the levy of State Income-Tax was discontinued in the Territory.

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## Profession Tax (Patente):

The collection of taxes similar to patente is said to have been in vogue at least from the Moghul days. These taxes were popularly known as sornadayam, adicache, alloucache, padicache, etc.56 The arrêté of 14 November 1832 declared that patente duties known as sornadayam, adicache, padicache and state duty shall continue to be collected in Pondicherry during the year either directly by the Revenue Authorities or by the kings' farmers.

Sornadayam was an annual tax imposed on shops selling grocery and oil and on oil mills in the villages of Ozhukarai, Ariyankuppam, Abhishekapakkam, Alankuppam, Kalapet as well as in the districts of Villiyanur and Bahur. The merchants liable to pay sornadayam fell under four classes and the tax payable depended on the volume of transactions entered into:

I	class		1/3 pagoda
11	,,	• •	3/4 ,,
111	**	••	1/2
IV	,,		1/4 ,,

The adicache was imposed at the rate of one cache per day on shops selling cloth, oil, jaggery, porcelain, cotton, etc. both in the town of Pondicherry and in the border villages. The shops selling tobacco, betel perfumery, yarn and indigo were also subjected to this tax.

The alloucache was levied at the rate of one cache per day on every fish shop kept open in the markets of Pondicherry, Nellitoppu, Ozhukarai Muttiyalupettai and Kirappalaiyam.

The alloucache and sornadayam were withdrawn in 1857 and the adicache was cancelled in 1859 only to be replaced in 1886 by patente on the pattern of what was in vogue in France. The several changes introduced in-between 1886 and 1918 were incorporated in a fresh but comprehensive measure approved by the décret of 19 August 1920. The rates were modified on several occasions between 1923 and 1938.

As per the two délibérations of 15 December 1938 enforced by the arrêté of 17 December 1938, every individual who did a business, ran an industry, exercised a profession, not covered by the exceptions provided in the rules was assessable to a profession tax. This tax was levied, based on the nature of the profession of an individual and not on his professional income. The taxable professions, industries or commercial enterprises were classified into 25 classes. Each class was subdivided into three categories depending upon the geographical location of the business, industry or profession. The first category comprised Pondicherry town. The town of Karaikal and the rest of the territory fell under the second and third categories respectively.

The following table gives the rates levied in each case:

Class	First category	Second category	Third category
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1st	2,000	1,500	1,000
2nd	1,500	1,000	750
3rd	1,000	750	500
4th	700	500	300
5th	450	350	250
6th	350	250	200
7th	250	200	150
8th	200	150	100
9th	150	100	75
10th	100	75	60
11th	75	· 역보리 60	50
12th	60	50	40
13th	50	40	36
14th	40	36	32
15th	36	32	28
l6th	32	28	24
17th	28	24	20
18th	24	20	16
19th	20	16	12
<b>K</b> Oth	16	12	10

. <del></del>		<del></del>	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
21st	12	10	8
22nd	10	8	6
23rd	8	6	4
24th	6	4	2
25th	3	2	1

The taxes payable under the rules were of a fixed nature. However, the rates given in the preceding table were subsequently increased by 35 per cent. Besides the fixed tax, a proportionate tax was collected in the case of certain professions, trades and industries.

Over and above this, a centage at 20 per cent of the tax was collected to be remitted to the municipalities within the jurisdiction of which the business or profession was carried on and another 5 per cent to the Chamber of Commerce.

A person paying tax for a particular class of profession was allowed to carry on any other business of the lower class without paying additional tax provided the business was located in the same premises.

Officers and employees of the Government, municipalities, professors of fine arts, science and humanities, primary school teachers, midwives, hawkers selling flowers, brooms, fruits, vegetables, fowls, fish, butter, eggs, jam and other eatables in the streets and markets, retails merchants of betel-nuts and leaves, workers on daily wages, and fishermen were some of those exempted from the above tax.

Following the passage of the Sales Tax Act in 1967, a number of representations were made for the abolition of this tax. Appeals were made both inside and outside the legislature. Finally with the passage of the Pondicherry Patents (Abolition) Act, 1970 (No. 23 of 1970), this tax was abolished with effect from 15 August 1970.

#### Radio Licence Fee:

The measure proposed in 1935 was finally given effect to only four years later by the arrêté of 23 November 1939. Since then, all owners of broadcast receiver sets were required to take a licence within twenty days of coming into possession of the same. The fee was to be paid even if the set was operated for one day. The rates originally fixed were revised in 1943. The rates as revised subsequently in 1952, remained in force at the time of merger. The 1952 rates were as follows:

If kept in a house

Rs. 10 per annum

If kept in a public place

Rs. 20

The rates were the same for all types of sets, whether crystal or operated by valves. Following merger, the responsibility of collecting the Radio Licence fee (as per the rates prevalent in the rest of India) was handed over to the Post and Telegraphs Department.

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Tax on vehicles and horses:

A tax on vehicles and horses was first introduced by the arrêté dated 4 December 1891, and given effect to from 1 January 1892. This tax was applicable to carts drawn by oxen or pulled by men, pousse-pousse, two or four wheel carriages drawn by one or more horses, reklas and horses. Bicycles and tricycles were covered by the arrêté of 15 April 1902. 57 In another eight years the question of revision of tax came up for discussion alongwith the question of imposing a tax for the first time on cars, lorries and buses. The rates were thus revised from time to time, the latest revision having taken place with respect to Pondicherry region in the year 1941 (as per the déliberation dated 15 December 1941 enforced by the arrêté dated 24 December 1941) and in respect of other regions, in the year 1936 (as per the déliberation dated 23 May 1936, enforced by the arrêté dated 19 June 1936).

The following were the rates in force prior to merger:

Nature of vehicle	Princip	al tax	
nature of venicie	Pondicherry	Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam	
(1)	(2)	(3)	
	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Motor cars and buses:			
For two seaters	40	40	
For every additional seat	5	5	
2. Lorry:			
Fixed tax	15	15	
In addition, a proportional tax for	LL LL		
horse power.	1	1	
3. Four wheel carriages drawn by one or horses or mules	two 15	12	
4. Motor-cycle or similar machine-power cycle	a Mai	10	
5. Bicycle	2	2	
6. Rickshaw (handpulled)	2	2	
7. Cart drawn by two oxen or pulled by men		2	
8. Cart drawn by ox	2	1	
9. Horse or mule for riding or draught	4	4	
10. Two wheel carriage and tricycle	4	3	
·			
11. Reklas	1	1	

As in the case of land tax, the municipalities in the Territory were also entitled to a centage not exceeding 20 per cent of the tax to meet any ordinary expenditure and another 20 per cent to meet any extraordinary expenditure. After merger, the tax on motorised vehicles came to be governed by the Pondicherry Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1967 and the responsibility of tax collection no more rested with the Revenue Department.

The collection of taxes on non-motorised vehicles and horses, however, remained with the Revenue Department.

#### House tax:

The house tax which was introduced in 1894 purely as a measure to improve the finances of the administration, was abolished after two years, only to be introduced again in 1898 under the arrêté dated 27 May 1898. The rate of tax was based on the rental value of the building. However houses and buildings endowed for charitable purposes were exempted from the tax. The rental value of the building was to be determined in each commune by a committee consisting of the Mayor, or his representative, a notable nominated by the Municipal Council and the contrôleur of the Revenue Department. The assessment was reviewed once in three years. Buildings, the rental value of which was less than Rs. 2, were exempted from house tax. The exemption limit was subsequently raised to Rs. 5 and then to Rs. 6.

The délibération of 15 December 1941 given effect to by the arrêté of 24 December 1941 fixed the rate of house tax at 12 per cent of the rental value of the buildings in Pondicherry, Karaikal and at 10 per cent of the value in all the other communes. These rates were in force till 1978.

## Stamp and registration fee:

The Office of the Conservateur des Hypothèques originally under private management was taken over by the Administration with effect from 13 September 1967 along with the staff and put under a Registrar.

Registration of documents etc. was done in the territory according to the French laew till 8 January 1969. The Indian Registration Act, 1908 and the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (as amended upto 1 August 1966 in Tamil Nadu) were extended to this Territory on 9 January 1969 and the newly framed Pondicherry Registration Rules were introduced on the same date. With the introduction of the Indian Registration Act, the Notaires and the Receveurs d'Enregistrement ceased to function and the records of all the Notaires were

taken over by the District Registrar in Pondicherry region and by the concerned Sub-Registrars in the other regions of the Territory. The adherence to the Special Marriage Act, and the Hindu Marriage Act was also left to the care of the District Registrar in the Territory.

With the introduction of the Indian Registration Act, the Union Territory was divided into nine Sub-Districts, viz. Pondicherry Ozhukarai, Villiyanur and Bahur (Pondicherry region), Karaikal, Niravi and Tirunallar (Karaikal region), Mahe and Yanam. As the registration-load in the Sub-Registrar's Office at Ozhukarai became heavy, the villages of Ariyankuppam and Mudaliyarpettai Communes were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Pondicherry Registrar's Office with effect from 15 April 1969. The Sub-Registrars also function as Collectors under section 16 of the Indian Stamp Act, and as District Registrars under section 31,32, 38 (2), 40, 41, 42,48,56 and 70 of the Act.

The Indian Stamp (Pondicherry Amendment) Act, 1970 provided for the levy of stamp duty with reference to the market value of the property instead of the consideration expressed in the document. With effect from 1 November 1970, the copying system was abandoned and the filing system was adopted. On 10 December 1970, one more Sub-Registry was formed by taking away Mannadippattu Commune from Villiyanur Sub-District and attaching it to Tirukkanur. There were thus 10 Sub-Registration Offices in the Territory.

l.	Pondicherry	1시대 회식에	6.	Karaikal
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Ozhukarai
 Tirunallar

3. Villiyanur 8. Niravi

4. Bahur 9. Mahe

i, Tirukkanur 10. Yanam

The work in the Sub-Registrar's Office, Yanam was found inadequate for a full-time Sub-Registrar. Hence, with effect from 10 March 1970, the post of Sub-Registrar of Yanam was transferred to Pondicherry to deal with the work connected with the Chit Funds Act, 1966. The Deputy Tahsildar Yanam was placed in-charge of the Sub-Registrar's Office, Yanam from 16 March 1971 to 11 June 1971. And from 12 June 1971 onwards the Sub-Treasury Officer, Yanam is in-charge of the Sub-Registry Office, Yanam.

Details of total receipts for the period from 1968-69 to 1973-74 are furnished below:

Year		Total receipts
		Rs. P
1968-69		8,17,010.45
196970	• •	4,10,276.00
1970-71		3,75,445.00
1971–72		4,00,815.00
1972–73		4,14,169.00
1973–74		5,01.905.90

Tax on arms: A tax on arms came to be imposed for the first time only in 1912.58 Under the law, those possessing arms were bound to declare the arms held by them. After about 12 years the rates were revised in accordance with the deliberation of 5 December 1924 given effect to by the arrêté of 14 October 1925.59

Holders of gum licences had to pay an annual fee as follows:

		Rs.
For a pistol or revolver		4
For a single bore gun		2
For all guns with more than	one	
shot		4

Subsequent to merger, this tax was abolished and a licence fee as provided for in the Arms Act, 1959 which was extended to the Territory, came to be levied from October 1963.

## Turn over tax (Tax sur les Transactions):

This tax was introduced only in the year 1953 primarily with a view to augmenting the resources of the Administration. The tax was collected on transactions made in the territory by individuals or corporate bodies who habitually or occasionally made purchases with a view to re-selling the goods or who performed

functions relating to any industry, commerce or craft. The measure provided for some exemptions beneficial to the common man. Essential commodities such as food stuff, rice, cereals, eggs, fish, kerosene, milk and milk products were exempt from this tax. Even wandering hawkers, artisans working with a partner or an apprentice came under the exemption. Gold and silver, in the form of bars, ingots, powder or coins and diamonds were also covered by the exemption. The rate was fixed at 3 per cent of the value of the transaction with a minimum of 3 caches in case the value was less than eight annas and six caches if it was above eight annas. This tax was withdrawn with the commencement of the Sales Tax Act, 1967.

#### Sales Tax:

The Pondicherry General Sales Tax Act, as passed by the Legislative Assembly on 21 March 1965, was scheduled to come into force on 1 April 1966. In order to enforce and administer the above Act and the General Sales Tax Act of 1956, a Sales Tax Office was created with a Deputy Commissioner as its head under the general control and supervision of the Finance Department. Three assessment divisions, two in Pondicherry and one in Karaikal to be manned by two Joint Commercial Tax Officers, three Deputy Commercial Tax Officers and four Assistant Commercial Tax Officers, were created. Yanam region was attached to the Pondicherry Division and Mahe region to the Karaikal Division.

The dealers in Pondicherry, however, challenged the validity of the above Act by filing a writ petition in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court declared the Pondicherry General Sales Tax Act ab initio void bringing to a standstill the enforcement of the Act with effect from 20 February 1967. The Pondicherry General Sales Tax Act was again passed by the Legislative Assembly on 18 September 1967 and brought into force with retrospective effect i.e. from 1 April 1966. The new Act, however, exempted transactions made between 20 February 1967 and 19 November 1967, from being covered by the provisions of the Act.

The statement below shows the income from sales tax from the year 1967-68:

Rs.

November 1967—March 1968 ... 8,91,997

April 1968—March 1969 . . 34,67,958

, 1969—March 1970 .. 41,94,457

Rs.

April	1971—March 1970.	•	57,85,974
,,	1971—March 1972.		72,06,795
••	1972-March 1973.		94,02,601

### Excise:

The tax on arrack, toddy and liquors in the Territory as a whole, and sometimes in the case of particular regions came to be governed by various deliberations, decrets and arretes until 10 June 1970, on which date, the Excise Act, 1970 came into force in the Territory. Details of relevant arretes, are furnished below:

Sl. No.	Arrêté	Type of liquor	Regions to which applicable
(1)	(2)	(2)	(4)
1.	20-5-1926	Denatured spirit	Four regions
2.	22-11-1916	Local and foreign liquors.	Four regions
3.	3-11-1920	Toddy	Four regions
4.	9-6-1923	Toddy	Four regions
5.	28-6-1924	Toddy	Four regions
6.	9-12-1952	I.M.F.Lस्यमन जयन	Four regions
7.	26-7-1962	Alcohol	Four regions
8.	2–10–1912	Arrack and foreign liquors	Pondicherry and Karaikal
9.	28-3-1907	I.M.F.L. and F.L. and spirits	Pondicherry and Karaikal
10.	2-2-1910	I.M.F.L. and F.L. and spirits	Pondicherry and Karaikal
11.	22–9–1912	I.M.F.L.	Pondicherry and Karaikal
12.	22-12-1912	I.M.F.L.	Pondicherry and Karaikal
13.	16-10-1918	Local liquor	Yanam
14.	11-11-1919	Local and foreign liquors	Mahe

<sup>\*</sup> Indian made foreign liquors.

The Pondicherry Alcoholic Liquors (Consumption Duty) Amendment Act, 1966 brought into force on 1 June 1966 provided for the doubling of the rate of excise duties on alcoholic beverages in the Territory.

The following are the rates of excise duty leviable on the various items of liquors as on 10 June 1970:

SI. No.	Name of the articles	Rates of the excise duty/ countervailing duty
1.	Spirituous liquors, liquors whether Indian made or foreign manufactured or imported into the Union Territory, rectified or semi-rectified spirits.	Rs. 2,025 per hecto litre of pure alcohol
2.	Arrack patte	Rs. 1,350 per hecto litre of pure alcohol.
3.	Wine cider and perrys	Rs. 18 per bulk hecto litre.
4.	Beer	Rs. 24 per bulk hecto litre.
5.	Denatured spirit, methylated spirit	Rs. 50 per bulk hecto litre.
6.	Toddy:	
	On each of the following variety of trees	s per year-
	1. Coconut tree	Rs. 18 per tree
	2. Sago palm	Rs. 36 per tree
	3. Palm	Rs. 6 per tree
	4. Date palm	Rs. 6 per tree

Toddy and arrack shops in the Territory are auctioned once in two years. The statement below gives the number of arrack and toddy shops in the Territory:

Year	<b>A</b> 1	rrack shops	Toddy shops	
1961		67	119	
1961–63	••	45	81	
1964–65	• •	23	81	
1966-67		23	81	
1968–69		15	81	
197071		16	80	
1971 72		49	81	
1972–73		72	87	
1973-74		74	90	

Details of income since 1968 are furnished below:

(In rupees)

			arun e	नपने		(In	rupees)
_	Lease amount on			mption duty	Licence fee	Total	
Year	Toddy	Arrack	Arrack	I.M.F.L.	F.L.	100	
1968	37,15,198	15,18,615	35,05,091	21,19,051	3,550	51,320	1,09,12,825
1969	37,15,198	15,18,615	69,64,428	21,19,051	3,725	51,320	1,43,72,337
1970	34,65,775	16,12,543	33,97,685	26,48,813	3,448	51,320	1,11,79,584
1971–72	18,10,346	15,81,910	23,45,665	91,65,217	Nil	5,45,435	1,54,48,573
1972-73	27,58,080	43,26,360	62,35,730	79,13,918	Nil	4,17,205	2,16,51,293
1973-74	38,73,000	68,43,660	1,08,38,336	1,06,65,309	Nil	3,72,686	3,25,92,991

### Tax on tobacco:

The cultivation as well as the sale of tobacco were all along subject to some sort of tax or other, since the establishment of the French regime in Pondicherry.60 In a gesture of sweeping generosity all kinds of taxes on tobacco were abolished in 1908, only to be reimposed by the arrêté of 23 October 1912. Since then, the wholesale and retail sale right of tobacco came to be auctioned in the territory. This system was abolished some years ago. The power to levy excise duty on tobacco is now exercised by the Central Excise and Customs Department of the Government of India.

### Duty on petroleum products:

Although a duty was levied on all kinds of petroleum products meant for sale within the territory before merger, it is now regulated by the Petroleum Act of 1939 which was extended to this Territory with effect from 1 October 1963.

### Income from sale right of explosives:

Prior to merger, the sale right of explosives was disposed of by auction. This is now governed by the Explosives Act of 1884 which was extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963.

### Tax on sugar:

A tax on sugar was one of the steps taken in the year 1933 to fill up the budgetary gap of revenue, following the reduction of income from land tax. This tax came to be imposed by the arrêté of 20 December 1934.61 The law prohibited the manufacture of raw or refined sugar or sugar candy in the territory without filing a proper declaration in the Revenue Department. The provisions of this measure were applicable only to Pondicherry and Karaikal. The rate of consumption duty was fixed at Rs. 3 per 100 kgs of sugar. Jaggery made of palmyra and date palm juice and sugar products such as jam, toffee, biscuits, syrups, condensed milk and liquors were exempted from this duty. After merger, the item came under the purview of the Central Government.

### Tax on match boxes:

The tax on match-boxes came to be imposed following the déliberation of 30 November 1926 enforced by the arrêté of 16 March 1927. The taxation measure underwent some changes in the years 1935 and 1952 and covered locally manufactured and imported match-boxes.

Salt:

The manufacture and sale of salt in the former French establishments were governed by the Conventions of 1815, 1818 and 1835, signed between Great Britain and France. As per the terms of the Conventions, the manufacture of salt had to cease throughout the whole of the French establishments in India. The Government of Madras was to pay instead an indemnity of 4,000 star pagodas to the French Administration. The British Government at the same time agreed to deliver such quantity of salt as was required for the consumption of the inhabitants in the French settlements in India. This struck the death knell of the salt industry in the Territory.

Following the agreement, salt from Marakkanam Salt Factory was supplied to Pondicherry. Similarly, salt from excise licensees of Tarangambadi and Jagannaickpur Salt Factory was supplied to Karaikal and Yanam respectively. As there was no salt work near Mahe, Bombay salt was locally purchased and supplied to Mahe by the Salt Inspector stationed at Calicut. The Government of British India fixed, once in three years, the rates to be charged for the supply of Government salt to the French establishments. Prior to merger, the Administration held the monopoly for the sale of salt through licensed retailers, the functions being performed by the Revenue Department. The functions are now handled by the Salt Commissioner, Government of India.

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## CHAPTER—XII

# LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

# I. Incidence of crime

Although the Territory is free from grave crimes like dacoity, border raids and sex crimes, it has a special attraction for criminals addicted to drink and debauchery. The trend and incidence of crime in the Territory will be evident from the following statement:

() Year	2) warder	© Dacoity	& Robbery	House G breaking	⊙ Thefts*	(2) Cheating	Receiving stolen properties	Rioting and G other disturbances	Total No. of cognizable cases reported to the police
1956	4		2	159	600	2	3	5	1,384
1957	9	1	3	147	462	1	1	3	1,264
1958	4	_	1	134	415	13	1	3	1,087
1959	3			145	389	2	4	9	1,133
1960	5		1	167	432	8	3	5	1,014
1961	7		2	132	348	14	2	2	1,046
1962	3			137	362	6	4	3	1,048
1963	5			156	348	6	3	3	1,097
1964	3	0	2	195	<b>49</b> 8	13	<del></del> -	63	1,177

<sup>\*</sup> Includes minor, major as well as cattle thefts.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9	(10)
1965	3	0	0	165	365	9	2	31	1,103
1966	4	0	1	139	499	18	16	13	1,170
1967	5	0	3	124	485	25	12	24	954
1968	9	1	_	133	440	40	8	46	1,143
1969	4	<del></del>	4	132	513	32	8	39	1,455
1970	4	5	2	137	636	15	12	105	1,853
1971	8	1	2	145	550	18	4	109	1,717
1972	7			171	427	29	1	142	1,908
1973	6	1	6	173	635	15	17	145	2,569
1974	8	1	8	264	935	28	5	106	3,460

Non-locals, especially Koravas of South Arcot, Thanjavur and Madurai Districts, as well as members of a non-local ex-criminal tribe are reported to indulge in house-breakings which however are not so many.

Thefts account for the largest incidence of crime in the Territory. In this category of crime, instances of cycle thefts and thali snatchings seem to be common. While bicycle thefts are mostly the work of those coming from outside the Territory, thali snatchings are attributed to members of a particular community (Kalladars) who have come and settled down in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions from the adjoining districts. Pocket picking among crowds is another common crime noticed during festivals. The festivals at Karaikal Tirunallar, Pondicherry and Virampattinam attract a large number of 'bad characters' who indulge in such activities. Cycles taken on hire are often brought to this Territory and sold here after erasing the original number on the frame and altering cycle parts.

Next to thefts, house-breakings account for the largest incidence. It will be evident from the statement that the number of riotings and other serious disturbances had not been many upto 1970. However since 1971, there has been almost a three-fold increase in the number of rioting cases in the Territory.

There was scope for contraband trade between Karaikal and Sri Lanka as Velvettithurai in Sri Lanka lies only about 120 kms away from Karaikal. Highly durable articles such as wrist watches, fountain pens, blades, silk fabrics foreign liquors, etc., used to be brought to Karaikal by smugglers who took back opium on their return journey. This kind of barter system was adopted because of the difficulty and risks involved in the exchange of currencies. It may be recalled that the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930 was extended to this Territory only with effect from 1 October 1963. Prior to the extension of this Act, possession of opium was a non-cognizable offence and the offenders could not be arrested or remanded. Such offenders were sentenced to pay nominal fines and the opium was confiscated. There are now evidences of large scale smuggling of liquor from the four regions into the adjoining states. There have been very few instances of piracy, gang dacoity and border raids in the Territory. The number of cognizable cases reported to the police has shown a perceptible increase in recent years which is attributed to increase in population, urbanisation and industrialisation of the Union Territory.

The law and order situation: The law and order situation in the Territory has been on the whole well under control since 1954. Nevertheless, the police force had its share of challenges. The elections being held for Parliament, Assembly and local bodies from time to time, the agitations by various sections of employees in public as well as private institutions throw up occasional problems.

Agitations launched by political parties also threaten law and order whenever they turn violent. The Anti-Hindi Agitation launched by the D.M.K. in 1965 in Tamil Nadu had its repercussions in Pondicherry as well leading to looting and arson. In several places crowds attacked the police with a barrage of stones. The Armed Police had to resort to firing to bring the situation under control. Seven persons were killed. Damages were caused to Police and Fire Service vehicles; traffic umbrellas were set on fire; public property was damaged. The Government had to call for the assistance of the military. But even before the military could arrive the situation was brought under control.

The agitation launched by the A.I.T.U.C. sponsored workers union of Bharathi Mill in January 1967 posed some problem to the police. In March 1968 some men belonging to the Pondicherry Armed Police resorted to firing without the order of the Magistrate, reportedly at a mob of students and others in front of the Karaikal Town police station. In all seven persons were injured in the firing.

Although the strike launched by the Central Government employees on 19 September 1968, did not pose a law and order problem, four employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department were detained under the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance.

In 1970 the police had to deal with the land grab movement launched by the Pondicherry unit of the Communist Party of India. In November 1971, the police force had to tackle the agitation launched by students on the issue of naming the proposed university in Pondicherry after Sri Aurobindo.

In March 1973 there was a serious clash between the villagers of Tirukkanur and the border village of Pudukkuppam in Tamil Nadu. The police forces of both the Governments had to camp in strength to put down the strife and restore order. During the same year because of the split in the D.M.K. leading to the birth of the A.D.M.K., a series of clashes, black flag demonstrations, etc. kept the police very busy. In one such instance i.e., a black flag demonstration arranged in Villiyanur against the then Education Minister of Tamil Nadu in March 1973 by the A.D.M.K. developed into a very serious clash in which 43 policemen including one Inspector and a Sub-Inspector were Injured. A police motor-cycle was set on fire by the miscreants. The police had to resort to a lathi charge to restore order. In March 1974, elections to the assembly of Pondicherry were held under very tense circumstances, posing a grave threat to law and order. A lot of police reinforcements including one battalion of the C.R.P. were brought to Pondicherry and the election passed of without any major incident. 사무시나를 되었는

But for these sporadic incidents and agitations, the situation in all the regions of the Territory has almost remained calm.

# II. Organisation of police force

### A historical perspective:

Some kind of a civil police system seems to have been in existence in this part of the country even before the arrival of the French who allowed some of its features to continue. The 'nayinar' was the native chieftain responsible for the maintenance of law and order. I He had to perform certain duties at ceremonial functions also. De la Farelle indicates that the nawabs

who visited Pondicherry were received by the 'nayinar' or 'grand prévôt outside the town.2 Although he held the office by hereditary right, he could' be replaced if found guilty of embezzlement.3 All his expenses were covered by a levy on the goods and foodgrains entering the town by land or sea. As per the regulation of the Sovereign Council dated 20 March 1768 the levy on cotton, cloth, paddy, ghee, oil, groceries, fruits and vegetables was fixed at one per cent. The 'nayinar' got one—fourth of the levy. Continuing the tradition, Dupleix availed the services of this local chieftain to patrol the town during night to prevent robbery and thefts.4 Villages were guarded by chef pions with the assistance of pions who were empowered to arrest soldiers deserting the French army and also apprehend enemy soldiers found within the limits of the French territory.

Le Gentil described the police under the regime of Law as remarkable. He tells us further that the Police de rues (traffic police) was the responsibility of the natives. The chief police officer known as grand prévôt maintained a body of mounted police (Maréchausée) for patrolling the town during night. Thefts and murders were few. One could move about the town at any time in the night without fear. So impressed was Le Gentil that he affirmed that it was not so even in Paris which could boast of a well maintained machinery.5

In Karaikal, the functions of the police were performed by petty land lords known as visiadars. The detection of thefts was their main responsibility. They often behaved like petty tyrants, plundering their own villagers and extorting ransoms from travellers.

These visiadars also held their position by hereditary right. The French Company once had to intervene by force between two visiadars who claimed the right to exercise the functions of the police in a few villages claimed by the Company.6

Interestingly in Chandernagore, the French Company did not exercise the power of the police over Hindu natives. This was the responsibility of the fauzdhar of Hooghly who was subordinate to the Nawab of Bengal. Native Christians were however not under the jurisdiction of the fauzdhar. This division was a source of conflict between the French Company and the Nawab of Bengal. This state of affairs continued till the tottering throne of the Nawab of Bengal was finally struck down by the sword of Clive.

The règlement of 30 December 1769\* dealing with the police organisation was replaced by the règlement of 20 June 1778 promulgated by the arrêté of 4 July the same year. This règlement dealt with certain provisions of the earlier rules more elaborately. The Lieutenant de Police as head of the police force was not only responsible for law and order, but also sat on judgment over disputes which fell within the competence of the choultry court with jurisdiction extending over Pondicherry and its dependencies. He was responsible for maintaining peace and order in the markets, looking into complaints by masters against their servants, the use of correct weights and measures, inspection of shops, public eating places and slaughter houses, cleanliness of streets, destruction of dangerous buildings, etc. The nayinar had to report to the Lieutenant de Police the notable events of the town and the details of Europeans entering and leaving the town. He was also responsible for rounding up prostitutes and take cognisance of unauthorized sale of slaves.7

In 1790, † the administrators felt the need to define the functions of the police more precisely after taking into consideration all the provisions lying scattered in the règlements of 1769, 1778 and 1788. This resulted in the Règlement Général de Police of 1790. The newly formed municipality was charged with the functions of the police in the town and its outskirts. As usual the nayinars supplied pions to the municipality. Maniagars\*\* were placed in-charge of the supervision of the markets. They kept a watch over supplies reaching the town and reported on its adequacy or otherwise. The Inspecteurs Municipaux were empowered to take cognizance of offences, such as the use of false weights and measures, adulteration, etc. They referred such cases to the Bureau Municipal for disposal. The Sergent de Ville accompanied the Inspecteur de Police while on patrol duty and the Officiers Municipaux during functions. They were empowered to arrest and produce all delinquents before the Bureau Municipal.

The nayinar who retained as many pions as were required for maintaining peace and order in the town, was answerable for all cases of thefts. He maintained a watch over gamblers and arrested those running gambling houses. He was empowered to arrest delinquents and produce them to the **Bureau** 

<sup>\*</sup> The full text of this règlement is not available.

<sup>†</sup> Some minor changes were effected in the 1778 police regulation in 1786 and 1788.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The word maniagar stands for maniakkarar in Tamil.

Municipal. He organised night patrol with the help of taillards (talayaris) after 10 p.m. and arrested all suspects as well as those found disturbing public peace. The next day all those rounded up were to be produced before the Bureau Municipal together with a report stating the cause of their detention. 8

As for the armed forces, François Martin had decided as early as in 1676 to utilise the services of natives alongside the European soldiers to defend Pondicherry against attacks by Mahratta and Mughal forces. Yet it was only in 1740 under Governor Dumas that the Company assumed the role of a military power.

The appellation sipaye\* was accepted for the first time per 1742 when Dupleix organised the first units effectively. 9 He found the European soldiers at his disposal too inadequate to accomplish his design of establishing French supremacy in South India. Hence he decided to utilise members of the kshatriya castes and the muslims to strengthen the ranks of his army. Dupleix also maintained some Mahratta cavalrymen and negro regiments well known for their blind loyalty to their masters. 10 In 1748, the Delhi Emperor conferred on Dupleix the title of Khan Mansubdar-Nabab Muzaffer Singh Bahadour which entitled him to raise an army and gave him right over life and death of all subjects within his domain. Dupleix was not the man to throw away such opportunities. He raised an army from among the native population. Properly trained and subjected to European military discipline, they proved to be excellent fighters capable of great sacrifice. According to M. de Freville the British who copied the idea of raising an army of natives from Dupleix, used his own method to outbid the French.

The peace treaty of 1763 in Europe brought down the strength of the French military force in Pondicherry to six battalions. After a lapse of ten years, it was reorganised again in 1773 by Jean Law de Lauriston, the then Governor of Pondicherry. The battalions were replaced by what was known as the Pondicherry Regiment with two autonomous artillery companies and eleven infantry companies. Ten of these infantry companies consisted of 'fuseliers' and the eleventh one of 'grenadiers'. All 'grenadiers' belonged to the

<sup>\*</sup> It stands for 'sepoys'.

'paria' community. Caste distinction which was maintained in the army was done away with as a sequel to the Royal Ordinance of 28 January 1776. Although the Ordinance approved of the reorganisation introduced by Jean Law, it declared that recruitment to the army should be carried out without any distinction of caste or creed. 11 The number of companies was reduced from eleven to ten, the eleventh company consisting exclusively of 'parias' being absorbed into the other units.

In 1783 there were five battalions of 1,003 men each. Each battalion was headed by an European Commandant assisted by an European and a native officer. The same year, the King of France desired that the number of sipayes should be reduced to 600 and the reduction was accordingly effected. During the days of the revolution, the sipahis\* (hitherto called 'sipayes') were left with more police duties as bulk of the forces consisting of Europeans had returned to France. 12

After 1816: After the French regained the Territory in 1816, the police force came to be headed by a Commissaire Juge de Police. The arrêté of 26 December 1823 fixed the area of his jurisdiction which covered Pondicherry and its dependencies, viz., Saram, Pakkamudiyanpet, Ozhukarai, Olandai, Puduppalaiyam, Thengathittu and Ariyankuppam areas. The Service du Domaine headed by Receveur du Domaine was in charge of the police in the remaining areas of Pondicherry and the districts of Bahur and Villiyanur. Caste matters remained however within the competence of the Governor to whom the matter was referred to by the Commissaire Juge de Police.13

In 1826 the town of Pondicherry was divided into five 'quartiers' called thana de police. Each thana was manned by a thanadar who was assisted by pions. They maintained law and order within their jurisdiction and kept a watch on the cleanliness of streets and thoroughfares. The pions were detailed for patrol duty day and night. They investigated crime and passed on the information to the nayinar or Commissaire Juge de Police. They were empowered to arrest those caught for stealing or causing public disturbance or indulging in violent acts against persons or property, the low caste people disturbing public peace, beggers, lepers, cart-drivers obstructing traffic, those indulging in illegal transactions in the market place, gamblers, etc.

<sup>\*</sup> The new spelling which seems to have come into vogue after the revolution stood again changed to 'cipayes' (in 1802) vide Petignet, op. cit.

The thanadars reported to the nayinar the dead bodies found on the thoroughfares or salvaged from water, incidents of fires, murders, serious offences, sedition and unlawful assembly of persons. Although the pions and thanadars were empowered to arrest delinquents, they had no power to release them without the approval of the Commissaire Juge de Police.14 The béchecars were charged with police duties in the districts of Villiyanur and Bahur. They were also empowered to try certain offences.15 Since 26 October 1827, the jurisdiction of the Tribunal de la Police was extended to Karaikal town and all its dependencies. Karaikal town was placed under the control of the Juge de Police. The cotwals of Grand' Aldée and of the other four macanams viz. Tirunallar, Nedungadu, Nallazhandur and Kottuchcheri were empowered as petty judges to exercise the powers conferred on the béchecars of Villiyanur and Bahur to take cognizance of certain categories of offences and pronounce judgments thereon.16

Having learnt from experience that the béchecars of Villiyanur and Bahur Districts could carry on their magisterial function efficiently, the administration decided to take away from the cotwals in Karaikal, the magisterial and police powers vested with them and to confer such powers on the béchecars of the four macunams. This arrangement took effect from 1 March 1844.17 They were assisted by pions whose strength was increased from 38 to 40 in 1845.18 The personnel consisted of one chef-pion and 39 pions.

In 1856 the police set-up in Pondicherry underwent a major reorganisation. 19 It was proposed to centralise police administration and to place the responsibility in the hands of a senior officer holding a responsible position. It was also decided to appoint a Mayor for Pondicherry so as to pave the way for a municipal organisation. Accordingly the Juge de Paix of Pondicherry was declared Mayor of the town and charged with control over police, although he had to function under the authority of the Ordonnateur officiating as Directeur de l'Intérieur. Thus the Justice of Peace became the Mayor and also held the office of Directeur de la Police.

As Directeur de la Police, he was responsible for law and order. He also exercised control over the municipal police, traffic and prisons, maintained peace among the various castes and kept a watch over incoming and outgoing foreigners. He was required to report every month to the Ordonnateur and the Procureur Général upon the law and order situation in the town and in the districts. The inspecteurs, nainard, paléagar and thalavayes assisted him in the

tasks of administrative and municipal police. The béchecars-en-chef of Villiyanur and Bahur officiating as nainard and the seconds-béchecars acting as paléagar and talearis exercised the powers of administrative police in their respective districts. The rural police was under the exclusive control of béchecars-en-chef.

Under the new dispensation, the post of Commissaire de la Police was abolished and instead two posts of Inspecteur de police were created. Both the Inspectors controlled the entire area of Pondicherry. They were assisted by the nayinar, paléagar and pions whenever there were breaches of peace. They inspected the prison, supervised the market and kept a watch over weights and measures and gambling dens.

The 'nayinar' or grand prévôt indien exercised control over the thalavayes, the chef-pions and sous chef-pions, the pions and veilleurs de nuit (night patrolmen) in the district of Pondicherry. He exercised special powers on matters of worship, customs and privileges of the Indians. He inspected the hotels and reported the functioning of unauthorised gambling houses to the inspecteurs. Even matters relating to employers and employees fell within his purview. He maintained registers of dobachis (interpreters), pions (policemen), dhobis (washermen), métis, cooks, gardeners, thotties in order to make their services available whenever required.

The paléagar, besides attending to the duties of the judiciary police, also functioned as **Inspecteur de Police de sûretê** (security). He even represented the nainard on certain occasions. He maintained a check on the quantum of supplies arriving in the district of Pondicherry. Night patrol was carried out either by the **inspecteur** or the nainard or the paléagar in turn according to a schedule drawn up by the mayor.

सन्ययव जयने

The two cotwals placed under the joint supervision of the inspecteur, nainard and paléagar maintained order in the market, ensured the availability of commodities and the proper maintenance of stalls. They were assisted by aminahs who maintained an account of the goods entering, sold or remaining unsold in the town and prevented the use of false weights and measures. On requisition by travellers they placed at their disposal, palanquin bearers, coolies, carts and bullocks at the prescribed rates.

The thalavayes were responsible for the maintenance of peace and order in areas under their jurisdiction. The other personnel at the lower level consisted of chef pions, sous-chef pions, pions and veilleurs de nuit. For purposes of police administration Pondicherry region was divided into eight circonscriptions viz., (1) Villiyanur, (2) Bahur, (3) Sarampakkam-Odiyambattu, (4) Olandai, (5) Ozhukarai, (6) Ariyankuppam, (7) Abhishekapakkam, (8) Alankuppam-Kalapet with the residence of thalavayes located in the respective areas viz. (1) Villiyanur, (2) Bahur, (3) Muttiyalupettai, (4) Olandai, (5) Muttirappalaiyam, (6) Ariyankuppam, (7) Tavalakuppam and (8) Kalapet.

The mayor (Directeur de la police) the inspecteurs, the nainard, the béchecars, the paléagar, the béchecars en second, the thalavayes and the thalavari also formed part of the judiciary and as such were subordinate to the ministère public. Their duties and responsibilities were defined by 'Code d'Instruction criminelle' and the local arrêtés.

Within a month of this reorganisation, the cadres of veilleurs de nuit and pions de police were dissolved, only to be organised into a single corps consisting of thabedars, thanadars and gardes de police in the order of hierarchy. This corps was divided into 'escouades' or 'postes' which were responsible for law and order, prevention of crimes and the enforcement of laws and regulations in force in the town and its dependencies. 20

The arrêté of 3 April 1865 dealt with the organisation of the personnel of gardes de police. The strength of the police force in Karaikal was further increased to 71, 21

In 1873 one Ferrier, Juge de Paix, officiating as Mayor and Directeur de la Police, was appointed chef de service of Yanam. This provided the occasion for the Administration to reorganise the police set-up. 22 The functions of the Mayor and Directeur de la Police hitherto vested in the Juge de paix, were taken away with effect from 1 September 1873 and the person newly appointed by the Governor on the same date as the Mayor was declared Chef du Service de la Police. This change of nomenclature did not alter in any way the functions hitherto performed by the Mayor as Directeur de la Police. However the title Directeur de la Police stood abolished. The cumulation of the functions of three officials on one and the same persons resorted to in the year 1856 stood reduced to that of two functionaries in 1873.

On 25 April 1876 the police set-up was widened to include the police organisation hitherto under the control of Bureau du Domaine. The police functionaries of Bureau du Domaine (Revenue) viz., béchecar-en-chef and béchecar-second whose jurisdiction extended to the two districts of Villiyanur and Bahur were divested of their police functions. 23

A new system of hierarchy and unity of command was devised with a Directeur de la police (old nomenclature) at the top to be assisted by two Commissaires de Police in the district of Pondicherry and two Commissaires de Police adjoints in the districts of Bahur and Villiyanur. The police force under them consisted of the following:

Nainard	• •	1 Assigned to the district of Pondicherry.
Paléagar	••	Do.
Chef Thabedar	••	I Do.
Cotwals		2 Do.
Thabedars	••	2 Do.
Thanadars	• •	5. Do.
Brigadier (European)	••	1 Assigned to the district of Pondicherry.
Garde de police (European)	••	6 Do.
Thalavayes	• •	9 (Distributed among all the three districts)
Thalavayes-adjoints		14 Do.
Gardes de Police (l	ndien)	165 Do.

Candidates of 'respectable' castes alone were eligible for recruitment to the police. Their spheres of functions covered the administrative police, the municipal police, the rural police\* and the judiciary police.

<sup>\*</sup> This was vested with the béchecar en-chef in the previous set-up.

The Directeur de la police was placed under the control of Ordonnateur-Directeur de l'Intérieur. He also continued as Officier de la Police Judiciaire taking orders from the Procureur Général or Procureur de la République On the authority delegated to him by the Ordonnateur as in the past. l'Intérieur, he exercised control over prisons as well. The Directeur de Commissaires de Police were also Officiers de la Police judiciaire who took their orders from the Directeur de la Police. The Commissaires de Police adjoint were in charge of administrative and rural police in the districts of Bahur and Villiyanur, but enjoyed as much power as exercised by the Commissaires de Police within the area of their jurisdiction. They also maintained a watch over foreigners, 'corvas' (Koravas - a tribe of wandering gypsies), beggars, etc. found in the area within their jurisdiction.

The navinar stationed in Pondicherry looked after the administrative and judiciary police. The navinar's responsibilities and activities were confined only to the claims or complaints from the native population. Besides thabedars and thanadars, all thalavayes assigned to the district of Pondicherry were also placed under his direct control. He perused their reports daily and reported to the **Directeur de la Police** all facts or events pertaining to police administration.

The paléagar was responsible for crime investigation and such other functions connected with the judiciary police. He watched the movement of commodities and maintained records of the commodities coming in and their availability. He was assisted by cotwals who performed the functions of the police in the bazaar and public markets and watched the activities of brokers and hoarders in the market area.

The arrêté of 26 April 1876 was partly modified on 2 May 1877, pending the establishment of a municipal organisation. 24 The posts of the Mayor and the Directeur de la Police were abolished. While the Chef du Service des Contributions took over the functions of the Mayor, those of the police were centralised in the Bureau de l'ordonnateur, Directeur de l'Intérieur. Minor changes were brought about subsequently by the arrêtés of 2 June 1878, 8 May 1885 and 1 February 1886. It may be mentioned here that a separate brigade was formed in 1884 to attend to the functions of the municipal police in Pondicherry, and local denominations such as paléagar, cotwals, etc. were abandoned since May 1885. 25,

<sup>\*</sup> This was effected by the repeal of the arrêté of 26 April 1876.

On 1 March 1889 the administrative, judicial and municipal police of Pondicherry region were brought under a joint set-up concurrently responsible to the Directeur de l'Intérieur, Procureur Général and all Maires (Mayors) respectively.26 The municipal brigade was placed under the orders of the Mayor of Pondicherry. The Commissaire de Police Central now became the highest police official. Once again the responsibilities of the various officers were defined. The caste restrictions for recruitment to the police were removed. The arrêté of 1 March 1889 was subsequently amended in 1897 and later on in 1906.

The arrêtés of 3 April 1865, 20 June 1872, 11 April 1877, 9 February 1884, 18 May 1885, 1 February 1886, 11 June 1891, 20 February 1892, 1 July 1893, 8 February 1896 and 31 May 1900, regulated the police administration of Karaikal region. On 28 May 1886 a separate brigade was set-up to attend to the functions of municipal police in Karaikal. Similarly the arrêtés of 1 February 1865, 3 February 1884, 3 July and 22 August 1888 and 9 July 1898 dealt with the police administration in Mahe. The arrêté of 20 April 1876 covered Yanam.

The arrêté of 3 November 1906 conferred provisionally on the Commandant d'Armes control over the administrative and judiciary police paving the way for the rationalisation of the cadre and distribution of personnel. As on 30 November 1906, the strength of the police force stood reduced to 189.27 Experience further showed that there was no need for a Commissaire Central.

In 1907 a common cadre was created for the police forces in Pondicherry and Karaikal establishments. 28 About the same time, the cadre at the high level was reviewed and some marginal adjustments made. 29 The Cipahi Company was abolished with effect from I January 1907. Shortly after i.e. in April the office of the Commissaire de Police was shifted to the Caserne des cipahis (sepoy barracks). 30

Now to revert to the armed police, it must be noted that after the Treaty of Paris (1814) the British allowed the French to maintain only such number of troops as was necessary to enforce law and order within the limits of the establishments. Till 1826, those who volunteered for service in the Bataillon de cipayes were not subjected to regular duties or service conditions.

In 1826 appeared the first set of rules regulating the enrolment of volunteers according to which Muslims, Maharashtrians, Rajputs, Cavarais, Pallis or members of any other martial race were declared eligible for voluntary enrolment. Topas were admitted as grenadiers, 31

On 20 September 1861, the Governor took over as Commandant de la Place and the military officials were placed under his direct orders.<sup>32</sup> The year 1867 witnessed further changes in the set-up of the armed forces. The 'Compagnie des grenadiers' and the 'Compagnie de fuseliers' were merged and came to be known as 'Cipahis de l'Inde' with a strength of 330 men consisting of 6 Europeans and 324 Indians.<sup>33</sup> The 'Cipahis' were selected from among the upper castes in the proportion of 1: 2 between Muslims and Hindus on contract basis for a definite period. The topas were not preferred so much and 'parias' were allowed only to beat the drums (as army musicians). As Capitaine H. Martinets puts it (1891), these Cipahis served only to remind the vanished glory of the French. They provided guard of honour for visiting dignitaries and escorted them in procession from the Railway Station to the Governor's residence. <sup>34</sup> This formation was however abolished by the décret of 17 March 1907 with retrospective effect from 1 January 1907 for budgetary reasons.<sup>35</sup>

The reduction in the strength of the police force in 1906 and the abolition of the 'Cipahis de l'Inde' the following year was sought to be compensated by the creation of 'Garde Civile Indigène' headed by a 'Capitaine Commandant'. The personnel of the Garde Civile Indigene were drawn from the civil police as well as the erstwhile Cipahis de l'Inde. The Garde Civile Indigène' conformed neither to a police force nor a military set-up, but was a fusion of both. 36 It was subsequently placed in charge of guard duty over prisons in Pondicherry and Karaikal. 37 A small unit known as Service special des cyclistes was set up in October 1907 to attend to the distribution of official mail. 38 In May 1908 the strength of the municipal brigade well as the functions assigned to it underwent some changes as sequel to the formation of Garde Civile Indigène.39 Although it formed a separate entity, it was called in to assist the Garde Civile Indigène whenever required. Taking its orders directly from the Mayor, the brigade responsible for maintaining public peace, cleanliness in the town, traffic, public hygiene and the enforcement of laws.

The creation of Garde Civile Indigène proved to be a temporary measure for the very next year (1908) a force known as Gendarmerie Indigène was established in Pondicherry by the décret of 22 May 1908.40 This was more like an armed police performing the functions of administrative and judiciary police, in addition to escorting prisoners and maintaining security.

For the first time in 1908, the armed police came to have a small unit of mounted police.41 In 1910 the municipal brigade was abolished and those found fit were absorbed into Gendarmerie Indigène.42

This arrangement continued upto 1921 when by the décret of 19 May 1921, the Gendarmerie Indigène was abolished on the ground that it did not meet the actual requirements of the (French) possessions in India. The décret abolishing the Gendarmerie Indigène authorised the Governor to provide for an alternative force to attend to the functions of the administrative, judiciary and municipal police.43

The Gendarmerie Indigène having been abolished, a new police force was organised on 23 July 1921 to look after the duties of administrative, judiciary and municipal police under a Chef de Service assisted by another officer. Both were, as far as possible, drawn from the Metropolitan Cadre. The police personnel consisted of a superior cadre of Inspecteur, Sous-Inspecteur Adjudants and a lower cadre of brigadiers and gardes.

This police force consisted of three formations viz. Police Générale, Police de la sûreté and agents cyclistes. The Police Générale looked after the functions of the administrative police, municipal police and judiciary police. The main responsibility of the administrative police was to enforce the laws and regulations of the land. It maintained vigilance over public worship, mendicity, vagrancy, associations, epidemics, press, sedition, weights and measures, public cleanliness, etc. The municipal police looked after public hygiene and the demolition of dilapidated buildings. The functions of the judiciary police were defined by the penal code.44 Apart from the three formations, there was the fourth one which was a military formation called 'Police de Reserve' to guard the Government House, the prisons, etc. and to attend to fire fighting operations.

Now to turn once again to the armed police, the scrapping of Gendarmerie Indigène based on the Governor's report in May 1921 was not accepted by the Conseil Général which, in an unanimous resolution, called for the revival of the former Cipahis de l'Inde. The Government of France reconsidered the matter and finally restored it (Détachement de Cipahis de l'Inde) by the décret of 17 August 1921. 45 This detachment consisted of 106 men. In 1927 however the strength of the detachment was reduced to 95 for budgetary reasons. 46 This strength was not found adequate in the context of the developments, especially so, on account of the scattered nature of the establishments. It was felt necessary to strengthen the military force so as to go to the assistance of the police force in times of emergency. Hence the strength was increased to 156 in 1931. 47 Out of this, an European 'Sous Officier' and forty cipahis were placed under the command of a Lieutenant and sent on 10 March 1931 to Chandernagore to be permanently stationed there. \* 48

A machine gun unit was added as per the décret of 19 March 1937. 49 Further, the European strength of the detachment was increased to seven in 1937 and further raised to 11 in 1938 owing perhaps to the unrest among mill workers in Pondicherry.

It may be pointed out here that the decret of 28 December 1900 brought into being the Infanterie Coloniale in France to ensure the defence of French colonies. For this purpose, a comprehensive defence plan for all the French colonies was drawn up, taking into account the real needs of the colony as adumbrated in the decree of 19 September 1903, which provided for units of the Infanterie Coloniale to be located in various colonies, reduction of French elements and corresponding increase of native elements in the troops.50 It was the Third Company of the Eleventh Regiment of this force that was brought to Pondicherry to meet the situation, in the context of the labour movement in 1936. Although the exact date of its arrival and departure is not known. one fact is certain; it stayed in Pondicherry upto 1939. The reason for its stationing was attributed to the "overall situation in South India" and "to the state of agitation" and "subversive trends of a group of terrorists" in Pondicherry, 51 The services of the troops were expected to be availed of to meet emergencies. On such occasions it went to the help of the police force. With the departure of the troops of the Eleventh Regiment to Indo-China, the need for increasing the strength of the Cipahi Company was felt. Moreover the Minister for Colonies in his report dated 30 November 1938 to the

<sup>\*</sup> Similarly another contingent seems to have been sent to Karaikal to be stationed there permanently with effect from 1 January 1941, vide J.O. 1940, arrêté of 19 December 1940, p. 1198.

President of the Republic pointed out that the events from October 1937 had proved the inefficiency of the local police to maintain law and order in the establishment. 52 The Cipahi Companies were then under obligation to go to the assistance of the police force and also to substitute for it. The police duties which ought to be its secondary function became almost its primary function under the circumstances prevailing in the area. He therefore proposed to the President of the French Republic the transformation of the Compagnie des Cipahis into a Unit of 'Garde Républicaine Mobile'. This meant that the officers of Infanterie Coloniale would be substituted by officers of Garde Républicaine Mobile in France.

Taking into consideration all these factors and the scattered nature of the establishments and the unsettled conditions, the strength of the Détachement de la Gendarmerie (Cipahi Company) was increased to 216. Without however losing its military status, this detachment attended to police functions as well.

Final changes in 1941: An important change took place in the year 1941 when Le Service de la Police et de la Sûreté was converted into Section de la Gendarmerie Auxiliaire Indigène. 53 Simultaneously the Détachement de la Gendarmerie (Compagnie de Cipahis) and the police force now called as Section de la Gendarmerie Auxiliaire Indigène were brought under a unified command to be known as Forces Publiques des Etablissements Français dans l'Inde. This combined force consisted of 629 men as shown below;

Commandant	• •		यापेदा ।	तपने 	1
Adjudant	••	• •	• •	• •	1
Maréchal des le	ogis ch	ef			1

### A. Compagnie de Cipahis

### I. Europeans

1.	Premier Lieutenant- Chef (Adjoint						
	to the Commandant)	)		••	1		
2.	Second Lieutenant	• •			1		
3.	Adjudant chef				1		
4.	Adjudant				1		
5.	Maréchal des logis-cl	hef			1		
6.	Gardes Républicaines	s mob	iles		5		

II. $I$	Tatives
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	1.	Sergent-chef	• •	••	••	••	3
	2.	Sergent		••	••	••	8
	3.	Caporal-chef	• •	••	••	• •	5
	4.	Caporal	• •	••		• •	15
	5.	Cipahis	• •	• •	••	• •	169
III.	Enfant	s de troupes	••	••	••	••	4
В.	Section	de la Gendari	merie A	Auxiliai	re Indi	gène	
I.	Europea	ins		A.			
	1.	Lieutenant (A	Adjoint	au Co	mman	dant)	1
	2.	Adjudant-che	ef		Hall	•	1
	3.	Maréchal des	s logis	••			7
II.	Natives						
	1.	Maréchal des	s logis-	chef	ग्सेन न	T.	9
	2.	Maréchal des	s logis	••			20
	3.	Brigadier-che	f/Briga	dier	• •		45
	4.	Auxiliaires	••		• •	••	329
							629

The main advantage of this reform was that it placed both the wings under a unified command, thereby facilitating a reduction in the number of police personnel, effective military training and economy in expenditure. 54 The Armed Police and the Civil Police thus functioned as two arms of a single organisation meant to tackle all kinds of law and order problems in the establishments. This arrangement continued till de facto merger.

After merger: Soon after merger the entire police force in the Territory was placed under the command of an Inspector General of Police, who was an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police from Tamil Nadu. While the police force in Pondicherry and Karaikal functioned under the supervision of a Superintendent of Police each, the armed police functioned under the direct control of a Commandant. A company of the Malabar Special Police was also stationed in Pondicherry to assist the local police. Police administration was carried on in accordance with the French regulations upto 30 September 1963. Following the extension of Indian laws to the territory with effect from 1 October 1963, police administration came to be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Police Act, 1861.

The Anti-Hindi Agitation of 1965 brought to the fore the inadequacies of the police force in the Territory to meet the law and order problem of the Territory. Hence the Government of India deputed Sri Pande and Sri Balakrishna Chetty to study the police set-up here. On the basis of the recommendations of this team, the police set-up in the Territory came under a major shuffle. The new scheme of reorganisation as proposed by the Central Team came into effect on 1 June 1967. For purposes of maintenance of law and order, the entire area of the Union Territory was divided into two divisions, i.e. Pondicherry division and Karaikal division, the former including Yanam region and the latter Mahe region. The six circles in Pondicherry were converted into three circles and the two in Karaikal into one circle. Mahe and Yanam remained as separate police circles.

सन्यामेन जयसे

In 1966, the Police Act, 1861 in its application to the Territory was amended by the Police (Pondicherry Amendment) Act, 1966 (Act No. 6 of 1966) under which the unlawful assumption of police functions, impersonation, etc., became punishable offences. Smoking in places of entertainment was prohibited. The Police and the Fire Services were armed with necessary powers to remove any person interfering with or impeding fire extinguishing operations. Special provisions were added to penalise carrying of arms between sunset and sunrise with criminal intent, driving without light, driving an animal or a vehicle on a footpath or under the control of a child, playing of music, beating of tom tom, affixing of bills or defacing walls and begging. It was enjoined on pawn brokers to report stolen property if tendered to them for sale or pawn. Certain cases of nuisances in public places were also covered by the said amendment. Police officers were empowered to arrest without warrant any person committing, in his view, an offence made punishable under the new provisions of the law.

The Police Act, 1861 was further amended by the Police (Pondicherry Amendment) Act, 1968. Under the amendment, the offence of causing annoyance to females in a public place or office was made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine upto fifty rupees or both.

The last reorganisation of the police force took place on 1 July 1967.

### The Police Organisation:

The Civil Police: The Inspector General of Police is the highest police officer responsible for the maintenance of law and order as well as the prevention and detection of crimes in the Territory. He is assisted by a Senior Superintendent of Police, who exercises supervision over and co-ordinates the work of the Superintendents of Police in Pondicherry and Karaikal. He is the District Superintendent of Police under section 4 of the Police Act. He is also in-charge of the Traffic Police. The Senior Superintendent of Police is in turn assisted by two Superintendents of Police, one stationed at Pondicherry and the other at Karaikal, in discharging his functions relating to the maintenance of law and order in the respective divisions.

The Inspector General of Police is further assisted by four other Superintendents of Police each responsible for the P.A.P., Headquarters, Special Branch and Home Guards and designated as such.

The Superintendent (P.A.P.) is called Commandant P.A.P. and is responsible for its training and internal administration. The Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) functions as the Head of Office and attends to all administrative matters at headquarters. He is also the officer in-charge of the Fire Service in which task he is assisted by an Assistant Divisional Fire Officer. He further looks after the stores and the welfare of the police personnel. The Superintendent of Police (Special Branch) deals with all matters connected with intelligence and registration of foreigners in the Territory. The Superintendent of Police (Home Guards) is in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department, the Finger Print Bureau, besides the Home Guards Organisation.

Following the extension of the Indian laws, especially the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Evidence Act with effect from I October 1963, all Maréchal de Logis-Chefs of the French days were put in-charge of brigades (similar to circles) whereas Maréchal de Logis were placed in-charge of police stations. At both the levels they were guided by Range Inspectors all of whom drawn on deputation from Tamil Nadu to help the local police in the matter of investigation and enforcement of Indian laws.

As on 1 October 1963 the following 26 police stations and 13 out-posts grouped into ten circles functioned in the Territory: 55

1. Grand Bazaar Circle

Grand Bazaar

Central

Odiansalai

2. Muttiyalupettai Circle

Muttiyalupettai

Pakkamudiyanpet

Kalapet O.P.

Alankuppam O.P.

3. Orlayanpet Circle

Orlayanpet

Mettuppalaiyam

Reddiyarpalaiyam

4. Mudaliyarpettai Circle

Mudaliyarpettai

Ariyankuppam

Tavalakuppam

5. Bahur Circle

Bahur

Nettappakkam

Kirumampakkam

Karaiyamputtur

Madukkarai O.P.

6. Villiyanur Circle

Villiyanur

Tirubhuvanai

Katterikuppam

Kunichampattu O.P.

Ramanathapuram O.P.

Mangalam O.P.

Korkkadu O.P.

7. Karaikal Circle

Karaikal town

Poraiyar Road

Kottuchcheri

8. T.R. Pattinam Circle

T.R. Pattinam

Nedungadu

Tirunallar

Niravi

Ambagarattur O.P.

Settur O.P.

Vilidiyur O.P.

9. Mahe Circle

Mahe

Pallur O.P.

Pandakkal O.P.

10. Yanam Circle

Yanam

The Gorimedu Police Station (now Dhanwantarinagar) in Pondicherry region was newly opened on 23 May 1967.

As a result of the reorganisation effected on 1 June 1967 the six circles in Pondicherry and Yanam regions were reorganised into three circles i.e. Grand Bazaar, Mudaliyarpettai and Villiyanur, while Karaikal and Mahe together formed another circle. While the Grand Bazaar Circle and Mudaliyarpettai Circle became Town Circles, Villiyanur became a Rural Circle. Each circle was placed under the control of an Inspector of Police. The following police stations and out-posts were attached to the three circles in Pondicherry and the one circle in Karaikal:

				Strength of				
		Circles, police stations and out-posts	S.Is.	A.S.Is.	H.Cs.	P.Cs.		
			(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
ī.	Gr	and Bazaar Circle				-		
	1.	Grand Bazaar P.S.	.   1	1	3	28		
	2.	Orlayanpet P.S.	. 1	_	2	20		
	3.	Muttiyalupettai P. S. with	1		2	16		
		an out-post at Kalapet 4(1)4 7	- F	1	2	8		
	4.	Dhanvantarinagar P.S. with	1		2	16		
		an out-post at Laspettai (2) .	. –	1	_	4		
Iĭ.	Μι	ndaliyarpettai Circle						
	5.	Mudaliyarpettai P.S	. 1	_	2	24		
	6.	Odiansalai P.S	. 1	1	3	24		
	7.	Reddiyarpalaiyam P.S	. 1	_	1	10		
	8.	Tavalakuppam P.S. with an out-post at Kirumampakkam (	1 —	<del>-</del> 1	1	10 4		

(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
II. Villiyanur Circle					
9. Villiyanur P.S. with an out-post at Korkadu (4)	)	1		2 1	22 4
10. Bahur P.S. with an out-post at Karaiyamputtur (5	)	<u> </u>	<del>_</del>	1	10 4
<ol> <li>Nettappakkam P.S. with an out-post at Maddukkarai (6</li> </ol>	)	1	<u> </u>	1	10 4
12. Tirubhuvanai P.S.	un.	1		1	10
13. Tirukkanur P.S. with an out-post at Katterikuppam (7)	)	1	<u> </u>	1	10 4
14. Yanam P.S.	41	1		1	20
/. Karaikal Circle					
15. Karaikal town P.S.		1	_	3	20
16. Kottuchcheri P.S.	SNE	1	_	1	9
17. Nedungadu P.S.		i		1	9
18. T. R. Pattinam P.S.		1	_	1	9
19. Niravi P.S.		1	_	1	9
20. Tirunallar P.S. with an out-post at Ambagarattur (8)		1		1 1	9 4
21. Mahe		1		2	20
22. Pallur		1		1	9
Total		22	6	40	360

As the result of this reorganisation, the Circles of Muttiyalupettai, Orlayanpet and Bahur stood abolished. A small area under Grand Bazaar Circle was carved out and tagged on to Mudaliyarpettai Circle together with some areas of the erstwhile Orlayanpet and Bahur Circles. A small area under the former Bahur Circle was attached to the Mudaliyarpettai Circle and the rest of the area was attached to the Villiyanur Circle. With this reorganisation the Central Police Station and the Police Stations at Ariyankuppam and Mettuppalaiyam in Pondicherry region and Poraiyar Road in Karaikal region were abolished. Simultaneously the police stations at Kirumambakkam and Katterikuppam were reduced to the status of out-posts, and the out-posts at Ariyankuppam, Mangalam, Ramanathapuram, Kunichampattu, Settur and Vilidiyur were abolished. Instead, a new police station was opened at Tirukkanur. The out-post at Pakkamudiyanpet was shifted to Laspettai.

In terms of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 the area of jurisdiction and boundaries of the police stations in the Territory were notified by the Administration on 15 February 1968.56 These boundaries are not co-terminus with any other administrative boundary. Moreover five enclaves in Pondicherry region surrounded entirely by Tamil Nadu Territory viz., Alankuppam, Manamedu, Kaduvanur, Manakuppam, and Sorappattu do not have either a police station or an out-post.

Standing orders are issued from time to time to govern the working of the police forces in the Territory. However some standing orders of the Tamil Nadu Government are also followed here. The Pondicherry Police Manual, now under preparation, is proposed to be set more or less on the model of the Tamil Nadu Police Manual and the Andaman & Nicobar Police Manual.

The Pondicherry Armed Police: The Pondicherry Armed Police may be described as the continuation of the Cipahi Company of the French days. The Cipahi Company, prior to merger, consisted, of 283 men of all ranks including technicians such as masons, carpenters, musicians, cobblers, electricians, cooks, etc. The strength of this company gradually dwindled on account of retirement, death, resignation, etc. The strength came down to 145 in 1960, 117 in 1962 and nil in 1969. It was wound up in 1970 by absorbing the remaining strength in the police force.

Soon after merger, one Company of the Malabar Special Police was brought and stationed in the Territory to perform the duties of the Cipahi Company. It was decided to organise the Pondicherry Armed Police by gradually replacing the M.S.P. and the Cipahi Company in the Territory. Accordingly the first batch of the P.A.P. consisting of five Jamedars, 145 Police Constables and four followers was formed in 1956 and was trained by Instructors drawn from the Malabar Special Police, 57 The Malabar Special Police stationed in the Territory was withdrawn with effect from 31 January 1967 and replaced by the P.A.P. Company, 58

The P.A.P. which assisted the local police in maintaining law and order in times of emergency and disturbances, attended to guard duties and special bandobust duties until the Central Reserve Police took over the functions with effect from 24 May 1969.

The Traffic Police: The Traffic branch consists of three Traffic Sergeants (now Reserve Sub-Inspector) and 45 Constables of whom, two Sergeants, one Head Constable and 35 constables are stationed in Pondicherry town and one Sergeant and ten police constables in Karaikal town. On special occasions like V.I.P. visits and fairs and festivals, the traffic police attend to traffic duties in the rural areas. Otherwise the traffic duties in rural areas are attended to by the local police attached to the police stations.

The Home Guards: Following the enactment of the Pondicherry Home Guards Act, 1965, the first batch of Home Guards was recruited in October the same year as part of a country-wide programme. Under article 3 of the Act, Home Guards may be called upon to discharge such functions and duties for the protection of persons, security of property, public safety and the maintenance of essential services. The Home Guards enjoy the same powers, privileges and protection of a Police Officer while on duty and operate under the general superintendence, control and direction of the District Magistrate, throughout the Union Territory.

The present strength consists of four companies, both urban and rural, i.e. Pondicherry  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Companies, Karaikal I/2 Company, Villiyanur and Mudaliyarpettai together one rural company.

The Fire Service: The Cipahi Company was in charge of fire-fighting from the year 1933. Proposals for starting Fire Service Stations in Pondicherry and Karaikal took concrete shape only during 1956. To begin with two Station Officers were recruited locally and sent for training at the National Fire Service College, Rampur.59

At present the Fire Service functions as a Branch of the Inspectorate General of Police, with the I.G.P., as the Director of Fire Services. The Assistant Divisional Fire Officer is directly in charge of the Fire Services.

Proposals for the opening of a new Fire Station with a pump escape at Dhanwantarinagar and for providing one large fire engine as reserve and one ambulance for Pondicherry and one small fire engine for Karaikal Fire Station were approved in 1966. The same year, the Pondicherry Fire Station was shifted from Mangir Barracks to Godowns No. 8 and 9 in South Boulevard taken on rent. 60 Static tanks required for the purpose were constructed at five places, viz., near Government Distillery, Botanical Garden, Orlayanpet, North Boulevard and the Railway Station in Pondicherry town. 61 Major equipments such as trailer pump, mobile tanks, etc., were added the next year. 62

The Fire Service personnel are distributed among the three fire stations as shown below:

		Pondicherry Dhanwan (1) (2)		Total (4)
Assistant Divisional	Fire			
Officer				1
Station Officer		1	1	3
Leading Firemen		선·기사의 기사의 기	2 4	13
Firemen Driver		9 2	2 5	16
Driver Mechanic		1 1	1	3
Firemen		33 18	3 18	69

The Watch-and-Ward staff of the Assembly: Whenever the Pondicherry Assembly is called in session, the Home Guards in special uniform are detailed for bandobust duty within the premises of the Assembly under the orders of the Speaker. They function under the command of a Sergent-at-arms drawn temporarily from the grade of Subedar of the P.A.P.

This arrangement came into force with effect from 17 October 1967.

The security staff: Security to the Lieutenant Governor and the Ministers is provided by placing at the disposal of the Lieutenant-Governor's Secretariat and the Office of the Council of Ministers, the services of two Inspectors, one for appointment as A.D.C. to the Lieutenant-Governor and the other as Security Officer to the Chief Minister. The Security Officers of the other Ministers are drawn from the rank of Head Constables from the Civil Police. Their pay and allowances are paid by the concerned establishments during the period of their deputations.

The Women Police: A women police wing with a strength of two Sub-Inspectors, two Head Constables and ten Constables was sanctioned in November 1974, for the first time in the Territory. After three months training at the Police Headquarters, Pondicherry, the women police were detailed for special duties, pertaining to immoral traffic, brothels, female criminals and bandobust.

Railway Police: The Union Territory has no separate Railway Police as the protection of railway premises forms part of the responsibility of the local police. During the French period the Odiansalai Police Station was specifically charged with the responsibility of policing the railway yard and the station. Now the Pondicherry Railway Station falls within the jurisdiction of the Odiansalai station under the Mudaliyarpettai Circle.

The Excise Squad: Following the enforcement of the Pondicherry Excise Act, 1970, and the Rules made thereunder, an Excise Squad with a strength of one Inspector of Police, eight Revenue Inspectors and seven police constables was formed to book all kinds of offences committed in violation of the Excise Act. In Karaikal there is no separate Excise Squad. The Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar perform the functions under the Act. In Mahe the Deputy Tahsildar (Revenue) and the Revenue Inspector function as Excise Inspector and Sub-Inspector. No special squad had been formed in Yanam.

The number	of	offences	detected	and	the	amount	realised	bу	way	of
fine since 1970-71	s gi	ven below	:							

	No.	of offen	ces dete	cted	Amount in Rs. realised by way of fire					
Year	Pondi- cherry	Karai- kal	Mahe	Yanam	Pondi- cherry	Karai- kal	Mahe	Yanam		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)		
19 <b>7</b> 0-71	987	81	4		53,614 4,956*	7,100	250			
1971 72	976	105	4		59,665	10,130	195			
1972-73	819	132	_ AR	(F.T.)	38,326 111*	12,215	_			
1973-74	399	212	<u>-</u>		27,668.25 1,311.75*	17,650				
1974-75	541	126	1		41,135.00 1,83 <b>7.1</b> 4*	15,750	000,1			

<sup>\*</sup> Shows the amount realised from the sale of confiscated goods.

Criminal Investigation Department: The Criminal Investigation Department as such may be said to have come into being with effect from 1 June 1967. Placed under the control of the Superintendent of Police (Home Guards), the Criminal Investigation Department consists of the Crime Branch, the Crime Intelligence Bureau and the Finger Print Bureau.

The Crime Branch: The Crime Branch is engaged in collecting, coordinating and disseminating information regarding crimes and criminals in the Territory. The Pondicherry Branch deals with property offences within the limits of the urban circles of Grand Bazaar and Mudaliyarpettai. The Unit is manned by one Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors, four Head Constables and eight Police Constables. Similarly, there is a Crime Branch in Karaikal for the same purpose with a Sub-Inspector at the head. The crime situation is reviewed once a week at a meeting of Inspectors, which is presided over by the Superintendent of Police (Home Guards). The Crime Intelligence Bureau: The Crime Intelligence Bureau manned by two Inspectors, one Sub-Inspector, five Head Constables and four Police Constables is incharge of the collection and dissemination of criminal intelligence, besides preparing the monthly/annual crime reviews of the Union Territory. The photographic section is also attached to this Bureau.

In the rural areas the Sub-Inspectors themselves take up all cases for investigation with the help of the policemen under them.

The Finger Print Bureau: The Finger Print Bureau was established in Pondicherry on 8 November 1955 with a view to improving the scientific investigation of crimes. The Bureau, besides maintaining the finger print records of persons convicted under various categories of offences, helps to trace out with the help of finger print slips the criminal antecedents of unknown arrested criminals. The Bureau's services are availed to examine disputed thumb-impressions on documents or other records and to tender expert opinion over disputes in Court. Besides, the Bureau also trains the police officers and men in finger print work. The technical head of the Bureau is the Director (Finger Print Expert) who is assisted by one Tester, two Finger Print Searchers and a photographer.

Special Branch (Intelligence): The Special Branch which was established in the Territory on 1 June 1957 now consists of two wings i.e. the Intelligence Wing and the Registration Wing. The Intelligence Wing is manned by two Inspectors, four Sub-Inspectors, one Assistant Sub-Inspector, 21 Head Constables and four Police Constables. The Reporter deals with all enquiries into important confidential matters. This Wing further investigates all cases of forgery, counterfeit of coins and currency, theft of Government arms and ammunitions as well as cases involving foreign nationals, defalcation of public money, smuggling, conspiracy, gang cases, political crime, fraud, etc.

Special Branch II (Registration): The Registration Wing started functioning soon after de facto merger. Manned by one Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors, eight Head Constables and two Police Constables, its functions are centred around watching the activities of foreign nationals in Pondicherry and issuing registration certificates, residential certificates, etc.

The Armoury: The Police Armoury looks after the maintenance and upkeep of arms of all stations and P.A.P. companies in the Territory. A store house for the Armoury was constructed near the beach in 1957, where part of the Police Armoury was located.

The Stores: The Police Stores are under the care of an Inspector of Police who is responsible for supplying clothings and equipments to the personnel of the Pondicherry Police Force, the Fire Service, and the Home Guards. The scale of supply, pattern and life span of each article is determined by the Government in consultation with the Inspector General of Police.

The Police Uniform: The police uniform was changed after merger and was brought in line with that of the Tamil Nadu Police, except for the headgear, which was changed to the red cap (the French kepi pattern) for the armed police and blue cap for the Civil Police. However since 14 January 1971, the headgear for the Civil Police was changed to the red cap and members of the armed police were provided slouch hats. To keep pace with the modern trend, the police personnel now wear slacks instead of shorts. The free issue of uniforms was liberalised with effect from 1 April 1975, so as to extend the benefit to police officers. Police personnel of all categories are also eligible for cots, blankets, dhurries, etc.

The strength of the police force: At the time of merger the police force and the armed police formed two wings of the same force, commanded by an officer not above the rank of a Major (chef d'Escadron) appointed by the Ministry of War. In 1941 the strength of the Compagnie des Cipahis was 217, that of Section de Gendarmerie Auxiliaire Indigene 412 making a total of 629 men besides three officers. 63 It may be noted that this number included two policemen posted in the loge at Masulipatnam and two in the loge at Balasore. 63

By 1948, the strength of the combined police force increased to 672 as detailed below:64

Grades			No. of Armed Police	No. of Civil Police	Total	
(1)			(Red Caps) (2)	(Blue Caps) (3)	(4)	
1. European Officers			2	1	3	
2. European N.C.Os.			8	9	17	
3. Indian N.C.Os.		٠.	57	55	112	
4. Men Sepoys/recruits			217	269	540	
	Total		338	334	672	

This police force was distributed in all the five establishments including Chandernagore as follows:

Pondicherry	••		447
Karaikal			153
Mahe			15
Chandernagore	• •	٠.	43
Yanam		٠.	14
	Total		672

The total strength of the police force as on 31 March 1956, excluding the Special Armed Reserve brought from Tamil Nadu, was 625. 65 The strength continued to be the same till 31 March 1961. Since then it increased to 760 by 31 March 1962 and to 843 by 31 March 1963. The increase in the strength since then will be evident from the following statement\*:

Year	Police	Fire	Vigilance	Grand tota
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1964	1,030	Nil -	_	1,030
1965	1,088	Nil		1,088
1966	1,238	Nil		1,238
1967	1,037	52		1,089
1968	1,068	106		1,174
1969	1,012	104		1,116
1970	1,016	95	15	1,126
1971	1,011	98	15	1,124
1972	1,049	103	15	1,167
1973	1,039	109	15	1,163
1974	1,237	109	14	1,360
1975	1,300	109	12	1,421

<sup>\*</sup> The figures have been taken from various issues of the Abstract of Statistics.

Here it must be noted that until 1 January 1967, a small contingent of policemen was utilised for the delivery and distribution of local official mail Morever, the policemen had to provide escort for prisoners taken out of prison for work in the various establishments. Until the Fire Service was organised in 1956 even fire-fighting operations were carried on by the civil police. It may also be noted that as a result of the reorganisation effected on 1 June 1967, the total number of police stations in the Territory stood reduced from 26 to 22 and that of out-posts from 13 to 8. Nevertheless the strength of the police force increased from 629 in 1961 to 1421 in 1975. In terms of population there was one policeman for every 606.7 citizens in 1961. Within a period of 14 years i.e. between 1961 and 1975 the strength of the police force has more than doubled excluding, of course, the Home Guards and the C.R.P. stationed in the Territory. The police population ratio came down to 1: 331.4 in 1975.

Training: During the French period training was imparted to the police personnel by the French Military Officers stationed in Pondicherry. Soon after merger, however, the police personnel could not be sent to any other state in the Indian Union for training in view of the de facto set up and continuance of the French Penal Code, French Cr. P.C. etc.66 However on the eve of de jure transfer i.e., during 61-62 out of seven Sub-Inspectors recruited, four were sent for training to the Police Training College, Vellore. 67 This practice continued for some years. 68 Since 1973 Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors are being trained locally.

In order to cope up with the new situation created by the extension of the Indian laws on 1 October 1963, training was imparted to the Ex-French police officers on methods of investigation etc. according to the Indian procedure.

A Sub-Inspector was sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory, Madras in 1970 for training in forensic science. He underwent another training at the Security Press, Nasik Road, Bombay, on counterfeit currencies and crimes. Another Inspector of Police underwent training in intelligence at the Intelligence Bureau, New Delhi in the year 1972. Since 1967 local police officers are given training in the Finger Print Bureau. Upto December 1974, three police personnel have been trained by the Bureau.

After the *de facto* transfer one Jamedar and four Havildars of M.S.P. from Tamil Nadu were drafted to impart training in Pondicherry to the P.A.P. personnel during 1960. Two Naiks and one Jamedar of the P.A.P. were sent during 1963-64 for advanced training in practical use of weapons at Indore. Three P.A.P. Non-commissioned Officers underwent weapons training at C.S.W.T, Indore, during 1966-67. Similarly nine P.A.P. wireless operators were sent to Madras for classification test by the Police Radio Officers, Madras. 69 One Jamedar of the P.A.P. underwent training in Cipher Course at Delhi.

As for the Fire Services, the Station Officer of Pondicherry was sent for training in Station Officers' and Instructors' Course in the National Fire Service College, Nagpur for a period of 22 weeks during 1965-66. Similarly two locally recruited Sub-Officers and ten Firemen recruits were sent to the National Fire Service College, Nagpur. 70

Again Sergeants of the Traffic Branch were trained at the Bombay Traffic Institute, Bombay. During 1964-65, two Sergeants who underwent training at P.A.P., Avadi were posted as Traffic Sergeants in Pondicherry. Regular training or refresher training are imparted for Home Guards at Pondicherry and at Karaikal.

Police Welfare: As early as in 1933, the plot of land at No. 146, Olandai was converted into a sports ground. 71 The military pensioners were entitled to free medical treatment from 1938 under the Law dated 31 March 1919, at the rates prescribed by the décret of 22 January 1936 although this concession was available before at a lower scale. 72 In 1932, the Karuvadi-kkuppam canal area was placed at their disposal for shooting and training purposes. 73 In 1947, the entire area under Survey No. 307 in Uppalam was placed at the disposal of the Cipahi Company for paddy cultivation to meet their food requirements. 74

Here it will be appropriate to mention the role played by the Société de Secours mutuels de la Gendarmerie Indigène des Cipahis for the welfare of policemen and members of their families. According to official records this Société was started in the year 1910, to render assistance to members of the police force, affected by death, confinement, sickness, etc. 75 Monthly pensions were also paid to ex-members and their widows. The Société continued to function even after merger. The Pondicherry Police Welfare Association

formed on 29 June 1972 is a progeny of the above Société. The Welfare Association organised a Canteen Store with a capital of Rs. 50,000 half of which was met from the funds of the Société and Rs. 25,000 taken as a loan from the State Bank of India. The audited balance sheet for the year 1973-74 showed an opening balance of Rs. 1,58,896.42. A total sum of Rs. 1,35,000 was held in the form of Treasury Savings Deposit. All essential consumer goods are sold to policemen and their families on no-loss no-profit basis. Under its auspices a Vocational Training Centre was also started at Dhanwantarinagar, where wives and daughters of policemen were given training in cutting and tailoring. 76

A housing complex of eleven quarters meant for one Sub-Inspector, one Head Constable and nine constables was built and declared open in May 1967 at Mulakkulam at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 lakhs. Another housing project costing Rs. 15 lakhs intended for the Armed Police was also implemented. As many as 76 family quarters were made available to policemen and their families. A separate complex for providing non-family accommodation for 150 policemen was also opened in July 1973.

Although there is no Police Hospital as such, a doctor is detailed daily to attend to police personnel as well as their family members at the Police Dispensary. Facilities are now available to claim the expenditure incurred on medicine by police personnel and members of their families on par with Government employees. Policemen are provided sports materials with a view to encouraging the personnel in all games. Police sports are held annually. Athletic events, games and other competitions are held and prizes awarded. In July 1959, a football coach attached to the Hyderabad Police was invited to Pondicherry to impart training to football players in the police force. 77

Police awards: The silver and bronze Médaille d'honneur des Forces Publiques was instituted in 1943 by the arrèté of 12 and 13 August 1943 to ensure the loyalty of policemen and to reward them for long service and acts of courage and devotion. 78 Now the President's Police Medals are awarded to policemen, for gallentry and exceptional service.

The Police Band:

In 1933, a fund was placed at the disposal of the Commandant to organise a band for the military detachement. The services of this band were made available to the public during festivals and ceremonies such as funeral, marriage, etc. Those availing the services of the band had to arrange for thier conveyance, lodging and boarding, besides paying daily allowance during the period of engagement. The police band used to play at the band stand raised within the garden campus near the Place on Thursdays and Sundays by way of public entertainment. 80 After merger, however, the strength of the band got depleted with the erosion of the Cipahi Company. It was decided in 1974 to reorganise the police band with a Band master and nineteen instrument players consisting of four head constables and 15 police constables. The band service is made available to the public as well.

# III. Jails and lock-ups

#### Introductory:

The growth and development of penitentiary institutions in the Territory is one of the subjects which has not received the attention of scholars. We have little reliable information about the prisons. The scattered references about prisons and prisoners do not shed much light either on the organisational set-up of prisons or on the condition of life in prisons. Those responsible for the maintenance of law and order seem to have been also responsible for the maintenance of prisons as well as the custody of prisoners. In Pondicherry the nayinar who was responsible for the maintenance of law and order also held the prisoners under his custody. It is not known as to how long this arrange ment continued. But from the beginning of the nineteenth century we find that a clearer picture emerges.

A glimpse of the state of affairs of prisons in the Territory in 1827 is available from one of the speeches of Desbassyns de Richemont. He tells that the rules and regulations governing these establishments were changed. Prisons in Pondicherry were renovated, enlarged and provided with better sanitary facilities. Arrangements existed for undertrials and convicts to be confined separately. He further assured that very soon a prison would be provided for Europeans and another for galley-slaves. The system of extracting work from

prisoners of low castes was abolished. Instead work was made obligatory for all prisoners. The construction work of the prison in Karaikal was completed and that of Yanam was taken up. 81 The arrêté of 16 October 1852 provided a prison for Europeans, their descendants and 'gens à chapeau'. 82

In 1867, the Administration decided to reorganise the prisons and to tone-up their internal administration with a view to enforcing effectively the penal measures and subject the prisoners to better discipline. Accordingly the arrêté of 1 March 1867 placed the penitentiary institutions in Pondicherry under two categories viz., 'prison des blancs' and 'prison générale' each of which was placed under the control of a 'regisseur' who looked after the administration of the prison placed under his care.83

The prison des blancs was meant for the detention of Europeans, their descendants and 'topas' sentenced to undergo solitary confinement as well as correctional or simple imprisonment. Besides, it was also meant to lodge undertrials among millitary personnel and sailors who were as far as possible confined separately.

The prison générale was meant for all categories of native prisoners sentenced to solitary confinement or to correctional imprisonment or those punished by 'simple police' as well as the individuals sentenced to work in the atelier de discipline. Those sentenced to 'hard labour' were confined separately. There was no prison meant exclusively for female prisoners who were confined either in the 'prison des blancs' or in the 'prison générale' as the case may be. The female prisoners were allowed to keep with them their children below three years in case they were remanded after confinement or if confinement took place in the prison.

The régisseurs were responsible for the maintenance of an inventory of all belongings of the prison, the classification of prisoners, their discipline and the maintenance of accounts, etc. The régisseur of prison générale was assisted by a commis greffier comptable (a clerk), a chef gardien (chief warder), a chef surveillant des travaux (a chief supervisor) and six gardiens. The régisseur of prison des blancs was assisted by one or two gardiens.

The régisseurs were appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Ordonnateur Directeur de l'Intérieur and the other staff was appointed by the Ordonnateur Directeur de l'Intérieur in consultation with the régisseur.

The daily routine of prisoners started at 05.00 a.m. when the prisoners woke up and ended at 18.00 hours as detailed below:

05.00 - 06.00 cleaning and sweeping

07.00 - 11.00 work in the workshops

11.00 — 11.30 breakfast

11.30 - 12.30 rest

12.30 --- 17.00 work

17.00 — 17.30 meal

17.30 - 18.00 rest

The prisoners were locked up at 6.00 p.m. after which they were confined in the dark. The prison diet of natives, Europeans and topas was also different, as shown below:

Daily ration for natives:

6/8 measures of kambu or other grains on five days a week

6/8 measure of rice on two days a week

Four caches for fire-wood and cooking ingredients.

Daily ration for Europeans:

500 gr. bread of second quality

2 maganis of rice

200 gr. mutton on four days a week

150 gr. of dry vegetables or 200 gr. salt fish or 250 gr. fish on three days a week.

Butter for six caches

Vegetables for five caches

Pepper and salt for two caches

Fire-wood for six caches

Miscellaneous 15 caches

Daily ration for topas

Half a loaf of bread

Five maganis of rice

200 gr. of mutton on three days a week

120 gr. of dry vegetables or 200 gr. dry fish or 250 gr. fish on four days a week.

Butter for six caches

Vegetables for five caches

Pepper and salt for two caches

The ration money was paid to the régisseur of prison des blancs who was responsible for the preparation of food. Food was prepared under his supervision in a common kitchen by prisoners who were paid wages at the rate of eight caches per day. Half the quantity of food was served at 11.00 a.m. and the remaining half reserved for the evening meal. While pregnant women were eligible for additional ration, those admitted in the dispensary were allowed the diet prescribed by the doctor.

Clothing: The natives sentenced to undergo imprisonment for more than one year were entitled to a **chomin** (dhoti) at the end of the twelfth month and the Europeans were given one shirt, one pant and a short jacket if they so desired. The cost of clothing was, as far as possible, met from the savings of the prisoners.

Bedding: In the prison des blancs, the prisoners were provided with a wooden or an iron cot, a mattress, a pillow and a blanket while in the prison général, only a mat and a pillow were supplied.

Work: It was obligatory for all convicts to work. Undertrials were provided work only on request. The aged and the infirm among prisoners considered unfit for work were exempted. The work was carried out either within or outside the prison premises. The prisoners were engaged in the manufacture of ropes, caps, thatties (curtains), besides other handicrafts as determined by the Administration. The arrêté of 1867 stipulated that the condition of work outside the prison should be in accordance with the provisions of the règlement of 13 December 1865. The convicts were eligible for only one third of the wages paid to civil workers and were permitted to utilise only half of the wages earned by them to meet their own expenses or remit to their family. The remaining half was credited to their savings account and handed over to them at the time\_of\_their release.

Health: The prisoners were provided with medical facilities. There was a dispensary in the prison under the overall supervision of the régisseur. A student of medicine attached to the hospital attended to the prisoners, assisted by a homme de peine performing the duties of a nurse. On the recommendation of the régisseur, the prisoners of good conduct were allowed to perform the duties of a nursing orderly whenever the situation warranted. All prisoners were usually attended to in the dispensary itself, but were admitted to hospital on the recommendation of the doctor whenever afflicted by serious illness. As an exception, civil debtors were allowed to have treatment at their own expense.

Visit: Prisoners were allowed to receive visitors only on Sundays between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. and such visits could last only for two hours at the maximum. Except the authorised officers, the members of the Commission de Surveillance and the prison staff, no one else was allowed to visit the prisoners without the prior permission in writing from a competent officer of the judiciary in the case of ordinary prisoners and from the administrative authority in the case of convicts. Those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment and solitary confinement and galley-slaves were allowed to see only their nearest relatives and that too only rarely, upon an authorisation issued in consideration of their good conduct and efficiency in work.

Discipline: While prisoners of good conduct were rewarded, all breaches of discipline were dealt with severely. Well behaved prisoners were encouraged by offers of position of trust, remission of sentence, slackening of chains in the case of convicts, permission to use tobacco and betel, etc. They were permitted to wear a badge on the sleeves of their right arm as token of good conduct. Prisoners found guilty of indiscipline were subjected to various types of punishments such as cut in ration, solitary confinement, etc.

Commission de Surveillance: With a view to assisting the Government in the administration of the prisons, a three-member body called Commission de Surveillance consisting of a representative each of the Ordonnateur Directeur de l'Intérieur, the Procureur Général and the Maire (Suppléant de la justice de paix), was constituted. This Commission inspected the prisons from time to time and maintained a close watch over prison hygiene, diet, discipline, maintenance of registers, distribution and execution of work, relationship between staff members and prisoners, etc. The Commission had no power to arrive at any decision on prison administration. It could only forward its recommendations to the Administration proposing modifications which it considered desirable for the welfare of the prisoners. While the Commission was required to meet at least once a month, its members had to visit the at least once a week. Besides members of the Commission, an Inspecteur de Police also visited the prisons every day. Observations, if any, the President of the Commission, its members were recorded bу Police in the registre special kept in [the office. the Inspecteur de The Commission had to submit a report to the Administrator every year in the month of December.

#### Events leading to the reforms of 1899

It appears that penal institutions in the various establishments were governed by different rules and regulations. In fact the arrêté of 1 March 1867 did not cover the penitentiary institutions in the outlying establishments. An inspection team which visited Pondicherry from France in 1876 is known to have submitted a report to the Ministère de la Marine et des Colonies. Based on the findings of this team, the Ministry advised the Governor to take appropriate measures for the reorganisation of prisons in all the establishments.84

The arrêté of 4 February 1889 sought to strengthen the staff of prison générale' as per the advice of the Commission de Surveillance des prisons in order to subject the prisoners to better discipline and enforce the penal provisions more effectively. 85 Another order issued on the same date required the Medical Officer to visit the prison every morning and to stay there from 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. and to record daily his observations on sanitary conditions in the prison and the condition of sick prisoners in the dispensary. 86

In March 1899, a five-member committee was constituted to work out a regimen of work for prisoners. The committee studied the nature of work to be assigned to prisoners both inside and outside prison either for the benefit of the Government, the Municipalities or other third parties as well as the quantum of work, items of articles to be manufactured, etc. 87

The arrêté of 1 March 1867 which continued to govern the penitentiary institutions in Pondicherry were no more found to be in harmony with legislation in France which had undergone many important changes. This placed the administration in an embarrassing situation. Added to this, the Commission de Surveillance des prisons had also stressed the need to revise the rules and regulations so as to bring them on line with the new concepts of prison administration.

This resulted in the arrêté of 30 May 1899 which placed the prisons under the administrative control of the Secretaire Général and under the direct control of an officer of the Secretariat General.88 In the other establishments, they were placed under the direct control of the respective Administrators.

The regisseur was responsible for the enforcement of all décrets, arrêtés and règlements governing prisons. He was assisted by a gardien-chef who was responsible especially for the maintenance of discipline among prisoners and for carrying on the internal administration of the prison. As per the arrêté, the prison generale' came to have three wings known as 'maison d'arrêt', maison de justice and 'maison de correction' for the detention of all kinds of prisoners and undertrials. The arrêté also provided for separate enclosures for men and women in all the three wings. Work was declared compulsory for prisoners sentenced to death and banishment. It was optional for all other prisoners. They had to work for ten hours a day. The order further specified the punishments for disobedience, misbehaviour towards warders, drunkenness, unwillingness

to work, etc. At the same time, the prisoners were provided with better clothings. Europeans sentenced to undergo imprisonment for more than one year were entitled to two long trousers, two stuff-jackets, two short trousers, a pair of shoes and a straw hat in the case of male prisoners and two gowns, two chemises, a pair of stockings, a pair of shoes and a straw hat in the case of female prisoners. Natives were supplied with two stuff jackets, two trousers and a cap in the case of male prisoners and two sarees in the case of female prisoners. The dispensary attached to the prison was expanded and placed under the control of a doctor nominated by the Governor. The dispensary was provided with a consultation-cum-operation chamber, a pharmacy, a kitchen and wards for the sick.

The Commission de Surveillance was replaced by the Commission Supérieure des Prisons. Its function was to inspect the prison and to offer its views on their functioning. The Commission which met as often as necessary, or at least once a month had to submit a report to the Governor once in six months about the general condition of the prisons. Similarly, in each of the outlying establishments, a Commission de Surveillance was set up under the Presidentship of the respective Administrator, whose function was to keep the Commission Supérieure des Prisons informed of all matters relating to hygiene, food, discipline, maintenance of registers, etc. in the prison.

## The arrêté of 20 February 1942:

The penitentiary establishments which underwent some changes by the arrêtés of 27 July 1906, 2 February 1914 and 31 December 1930 were for the last time reorganised before merger by the arrêté of 20 February 1942.89 This arrêté placed the prisons under the authority of the Chief of the Colony (Governor). The Chef du Bureau des Finances as the representative of the Governor was responsible for the overall functioning of the prisons. The Chef du Bureau Militaire had to inspect the prisons to ensure that discipline was maintained and that the supervisory staff were properly carrying out their duties. In the other establishments, the respective Administrators represented the Governor. The order further reconstituted the Commission Supérieure des Prisons in Pondicherry and the Commission de Surveillance in the outlying regions as shown below:

### Commission Supérieure des Prisons

- 1. Le Chef du Service Judiciaire-Président
- 2. Le Président du Tribunal Supérieur d' Appel

- 3. Le Chef du Service de Santé
- 4. Le Maire or le President de la Commission municipale
- Le Commandant de la section de Gendarmerie Auxiliaire Indigène.
- 6. Two 'Conseillers Généraux' nominated by the Conseil Général
- 7. A fonctionnaire du Bureau des Finances—Secretary

#### Commission de Surveillance

- 1. Juge de paix à competence étendue—Président
- 2. Le Medecin de l'ambulance
- 3. Le Commissaire de Police
- 4. One 'Conseiller Général' nominated by the Conseil Général.
- 5. A local officer-Secretary

#### Juvenile delinquents:

As there was no prison exclusively meant for juvenile delinquents, they were lodged in the prison générale. This placed them in contact with other criminals rendering them susceptible to their bad influence. Hence in 1866 the administration seems to have decided to detain juvenile delinquents away from ordinary prisoners. The arrêté of 26 October 1866 declared Parc Colonial (the present Botanical Garden) as an agricultural settlement, where young prisoners from Pondicherry and other establishments were placed under strict discipline and put to agricultural work. They were entitled to clothing, wages, medical facilities, etc. The doctor attached to the prison générale attended to those young prisoners also, 90 This penitentiary establishment which was originally under the direction of the aide-botaniste was transferred in 1906 to the care of the gardien-chef who administered it as per the orders of the regisseur of prison générale.91 This arrangement seems to have been discontinued after 1942. Since then juvenile delinquents were housed in prison générale itself. Following the extension of the Children's Act, 1961 in the year 1968, a Special School and Observation Home was established at Ariyankuppam. As provided under this Act, young offenders, i.e. males upto the age of 16 and females upto the age of 18 are detained in the Observation Home.

## After merger ;

Even after merger prison administration continued to begoverned by the arrêté of 20 February 1942. However prisons were placed under the direct control of the Inspectorate General of Police under the overall administrative control of the Home Department. In Pondicherry and Karaikal, the respective Superintendents of Police exercised the functions of the Controller of Prisons in addition to their normal duties. In Mahe and Yanam, the Inspectors of Police held additional charge of the posts of Controller of Prison and performed the duties of Gardien chef in their respective regions. Following the introduction of the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code in October 1963, the penitentiary establishments could not continue under the control of the Inspectorate General of Police. In June 1965, the Government declared the Controller of Weights and Measures as Controller of Prison for Pondicherry region. The Administrators of Karaikal and Mahe were declared as Controllers of Prison for Karaikal and Mahe regions. In Yanam, the duties fell on the Chief Medical Officer. With the appointment of a Superintendent of Jails in January 1967, he took over as Controller of Prison for Pondicherry region. On May 1968 the following Central acts were extended to this Territory:

- (i) The Prisons Act. 1894
- (ii) The Prisoners' Act, 1900
- (iii) The Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920
- (iv) The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950
- (v) The Prisoners (Attendance in Courts) Act, 1955.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the various provisions of the above acts, the Administration framed two sets of rules viz., the Pondicherry Prisons Rules, 1969 and the Pondicherry Sub-Jails Rules, 1969 to govern the administration of prisons in the Territory. The rules were brought into force with effect from 1 March 1969 setting the administration of penal institutions in the Territory on the pattern in vogue in Tamil Nadu. With the extension of the Central prison enactments in 1968 and the enforcement of the Pondicherry Prison Rules, 1969 and the Pondicherry Sub-Jails Rules, 1969 with effect from 1 March 1969, the **prison générale** situated in the heart of Pondicherry town was designated as Central Prison and the prison in Karaikal was classified as a 'Special Sub-Jail' and those at Mahe and Yanam as 'Sub-Jails'.

Although under the new set-up, jails continued to be under the administrative control of the Home Department, the Secretary in-charge of the Home Department was declared as the Inspector General of Prisons with the Chief Superintendent of Jails exercising control over all the prisons in the Territory. The Chief Superintendent of Jails is responsible for the due enforcement of all rules and statutory provisions in the Territory. He is also responsible for the execution of all sentences of Iprisoners committed to his charge. He is assisted by one Deputy Superintendent, two Assistant Superintendents and two Sub-Assistant Superintendents. The Warder establishment in the Central Prison consists of one Chief Warder, four Head Warders, 25 Warders (Gr. II), three Female Warders and one Male Nurse.

All undertrials, convicts, both male and female, including lifers, all undertrials from Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions whose cases stand committed to the Sessions Court, all classes of prisoners convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for more than one month by the Courts in Mahe and Yanam and all classes of prisoners convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for more than one month by the Courts in Mahe and Yanam and all classes of prisoners convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for three months and above by the court in Karaikal are lodged in the Central Prison.

Since the sub-jails are meant for lodging only short-term prisoners, arrangements were made with the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1969 and with those of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh in 1968 for the transfer of long-term prisoners from the jails in Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, to the jails in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh respectively. Similarly, arrangements were made in 1969 for the transfer of habituals and long-term prisoners sentenced to more than five years from Pondicherry to the jails in Tamil Nadu since the Central Prison in Pondicherry did not have facilities to lodge such prisoners. While the maintenance charges of those prisoners are borne by this Administration, the prisoners are to be treated according to rules and regulations in force in the State to which the prisoners are transferred. All those held under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971 are detained in the local jails. Their detention is governed by the Pondicherry Detenus Rules, 1971. 92

The Special Sub-Jail, Karaikal: The Special Sub-Jail in Karaikal functions in accordance with the Pondicherry Sub-Jails Rules, 1969. The Deputy Superintendent of Jail in Karaikal, performing the duties of a jailor for purposes of the Act, is in-charge of the institution. He is assisted by three Head Warders and twelve Warders (Gr. II).

Sub-Jails, Mahe and Yanam: The Sub-Jails in Mahe and Yanam are placed under the control of a Sub-Assistant Superintendent each, who performs the functions of a jailor for purposes of the Act under the control of the Chief Medical Officers of the respective regions. The daily average prison population in these prisons is only one. Only short term prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for one month and below are lodged in the jails of Mahe and Yanam and those sentenced for more than a month are transferred to the jails in Cannanore and Rajahmundry respectively.

Open-Air Jail: A proposal to have an Open Air Jail in the Territory was under the consideration of the Government. Necessary land acquisition proceedings to acquire land in Kurumbettai village near Usteri were also initiated.

Prison population: Those convicted for thefts, cheating and smuggling form the majority of prisoners in the jails. Prior to 1970, smugglers formed the majority among the daily average of prisoners. This was so because the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu was a dry area and Pondicherry attracted a good number of criminals from outside. Moreover, the smuggling of liquor beyond the limits of the Territory flourished as a lucrative venture. With the lifting of prohibition in Tamil Nadu there was a perceptible decrease in the number of such prisoners in the Territory. With the reintroduction of prohibition in Tamil Nadu in September 1974 the trend was expected to get reversed.

Details of daily average of prisoners for the entire Territory from 1957 to 1971-72 are furnished in the following statement:

Venr	Year		Female	Total c	Total dail	y average
(1)		Male (2)	(3)	(4)	Male (5)	Female (6)
1957	• •	1,449	107	1,556	238	14
1958		1,282	95	1,377	284	17
1959	• •	1,298	105	1,403	303	23
1960		1,399	135	1,534	315	22
1961		1,168	96	1,264	316	22

(1)	_	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1962		1,149	86	1,235	309	17
1963	• •	911	<b>4</b> 9	960	255	13
1964–65		1,473	66	1,539	229	4
1965–66		1,202	63	1,265	346	6
1966–67		1,529	149	1,678	237	9
1967–68		1,331	82	1,413	207	3
196869		1,340	176	1,516	193	4
1969–70		1,240	268	1,508	169	9
1970–71		1,712	297	2,009	181	7
1971–72		1,160	118	1,278	115	8

It will be noticed that there is a sharp decline in the total daily average of prisoners since 1964. It may be recalled that a large number of Indian laws stood extended to this Territory with effect from 1 October 1963. The sharp decline in the daily average of prisoners is said to be the direct result of the extension of Indian enactments, which are said to be more liberal in granting bail petitions. During the French days, there were more restrictions on the filing of bail applications and seldom were such bail applications granted.

Classification of prisoners: The convicted prisoners are placed under three classes viz., 'A', 'B' and 'C' taking into consideration their social status, education, mode of life, etc. 'A' and 'B' class prisoners are entitled to some privileges. They are allowed to supplement their food with biscuits, non-alcoholic beverages, fruits, etc. and to wear their own clothings. They are supplied with furniture such as table, chair, cot, etc. They are also allowed to use soap, hair-oil, tooth paste at their own cost and to write four letters a month, two at Government cost and two at their own cost. Ordinary prisoners are entitled to write only two letters a month, one at Government expense and the other at their own cost.

Prison discipline: Prison discipline as well as the daily routine of prisoners are governed by the provisions of the Pondicherry Prison Rules, 1969. The prisoners are eligible for remission of sentence which is granted on the basis of their good behaviour, work and general response to various institutional activities. They are entitled for ordinary remission, special as well as government remission. The prisoners are also released on emergency or ordinary parole leave to enable them to maintain contacts with their family on important occasions.

The Advisory Board: The Pondicherry Prison Rules, 1969 provided for the constitution of a nine-member Advisory Board under the Chairmanship of the District Magistrate (Independent).

The District and Sessions Judge, the Inspector General of Police, the Director of Social Welfare and the Director of Health and Family Planning Services are the official members of the Board. The three non-official members including one Member of the Legislative Assembly whose term of office is three years, are appointed by the Government. The Superintendent of Jail, Pondicherry, functions as the Member-Secretary of the Board. The Board, required to meet at least once in six months, is empowered to review the cases of prisoners and recommend their release either conditionally or unconditionally or on compassionate grounds and to extend to them necessary help at the time of their release.

The Board of Visitors: The Prison Act provides for the creation of a Board of Visitors consisting of official as well as non-official members to keep a close watch on all aspects of jail management, including health, diet, training, rehabilitation, recreation, etc. of prisoners. The Board headed by the District Magistrate (Independent) consists of, besides officials, a member of the Legislative Assembly, a member of Parliament, a medical practitioner, a lawyer and two female social workers. They ensure the proper application of rules and regulations governing the management of prisons and prisoners.

The members of the Board are not only free to visit the jail on any working day according to the roster prepared by the Chairman, but also record their findings for necessary remedial action by jail authorities. They may also hear complaints and petitions from prisoners, inspect their food and its quality and verify the punishment register.

Welfare of prisoners: Prisoners are given training in some trade or handicraft as a step towards their rehabilitation. However the number of prisoners fit to work is not considered adequate enough to set up any industrial unit in the Central Prison. Hence even the equipments and machinery acquired for a bindery were transferred to the care of the Government Press.

Every prisoner is free to follow the tenets of his own persuasion. Moral discourses are arranged from time to time for the benefit of prisoners. Catholic prisoners are allowed to hear Holy Mass offered by a visiting priest. The sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny visit the female prisoners.

By way of recreation, the prisoners listen to the radio or read newspapers and magazines. The Central Prison in Pondicherry is provided with a library. Film shows are also arranged from time to time for the benefit of the prisoners.

Except Dhanwantarinagar police station, all other police stations and out-posts in the Territory are provided with lock-up rooms. In Dhanwantarinagar it is housed in a residential building where one of the rooms is utilised as lock-up. Wherever possible, separate lock-ups are provided for males and females. Where there is only one lock-up room females are kept separate. The doors of lock-up rooms are normally provided with iron-bars through which the guard is able to maintain a watch over the prisoner's activities. These precautions are taken to ensure that the prisoners do not indulge in any mischief or attempt to commit suicide. Unless authorised specifically by an order of a competent Magistrate, a prisoner cannot be kept under police custody for more than twenty-four hours.

# IV. Administration of justice

# Introductory:

There is very little of reliable information about administration of justice in the olden days in the areas which comprised the French Indian establishments in the south of India. It is generally assumed that the administration was the same as that obtained in the neighbouring regions. It may be reasonably assumed that when Pondicherry was under the Pallavas or the Cholas, the rulers set up the same administrative machinery for Pondicherry as they did for contiguous areas and the same laws also were administrated. We have some material on administration, including that of justice, under the Pallavas

and the Cholas. We have greater details about administration in the Vijayanagar empire, of which Pondicherry formed a part. The available documents and other materials do not specifically refer to Pondicherry. We have however, the Bahur plates which refer to a Vidyastana (college) at Bahur, near Pondicherry. It would appear that legal education was accorded due importance in ancient days in this Territory. The vidyastana may have been in existence as early as the eighth century. A verse in the Bahur plates mentions chaturdasaganaakula as comprising the curriculum of studies in the college. It is generally recognised that one of the chaturdasa vidya was dharma sastra, the science of law or justice. 93

During the period when Chola kings held sway over South India, there existed another college at Tirubhuvanai near Pondicherry. Its curriculum of studies appears to have included the laws of Manu (Manusastra) indicating thereby, in all likelihood, that those laws were in force in the Territory.94

From sources like inscriptions and other contemporary records including literary works, we are able to gather some information about the administration of justice under the Chola kings. It would appear that most disputes were decided by village assemblies. As no distinction was made between civil disputes and criminal offences, both were tried by these assemblies, at least in the first instance.95 As Nilakanta Sastri says, "The village assemblies...... settled, sometimes by means of small committees of nyayattar, affairs that did not fall within the jurisdiction of the occupational or voluntary groups in the locality."96 Disputes in general were sought to be settled by arbitration; there were instances where even criminal offences were compounded by arbitration.

Among the grave offences to be visited with severe punishment was treason against the king or the state. This crime comprised, among others, such acts as murder of the members of the royal family, non-payment of fines imposed by the king, persistent efforts to disturb the king's peace and to create disorder in the realm, violation of royal grants, and failure to pay expenses incurred for the conduct of worship in temples.97

All treason against people's organisations like the grama and the nadu was not only disapproved but was even thought of as more heinous than treason against the king. The heinousness ascribed to gramadroha is evident from the fact that in the days of Chola King Rajaraja-III some land set apart for house sites for the maintenance of padikappar was declared inalienable except for gramadroha.98

Some interesting light is thrown on the administration of justice under the Chola kings by the Chinese writer Chau Ju-Kua. He says, "When any one among the people is guilty of an offence, one of the Court Ministers punishes him: if the offence is light, the culprit is tied to a wooden frame and given fifty, seventy or upto hundred blows with a stick. Heinous crimes are punished with decapitation or by being trampled to death by an elephant."99

Despite Chau Ju-Kua's testimony, we have inscriptions which indicate that fines were the usual punishment for most of the common offences.100 Even manslaughter and murder were punished only by the convict being required to keep a lamp perpetually lit in a neighbouring temple.101 Rajendra-II himself in one instance recommended the endowment of 96 sheep for a lamp in a temple as punishment for murder.102 However, a judge's statement at a trial for homicide in the reign of Kulottunga that the guilty person need not die for his offence may point to the fact that homicide was not regarded as an offence deserving capital punishment. This inference is strengthened by another recorded instance of a trial for homicide where the accused was a vellala, and the bhattas advised that a vellala should not be sentenced to death.103

Sekkizhar's Periyapuranam gives details of a trial in a court of law and his account may be regarded as indicating the procedure followed in a Court during the days of the Cholas as the author is believed to have been a contemporary of Kulottunga-II. The plaintiff first stated his case before the sabha of learned Brahmans. His submission was that the grandfather of the defendant had executed a bond the tenor of which was that the grand-father and his descendants would be perpetual slaves of the plaintiff. The defendant who was taken by surprise claimed that he was an adisaiva and this was something of which judges had personal knowledge.104 The plaintiff was asked to prove his claim employing one of the three methods permitted by law, i.e. by proving usage, by producing documents or by the testimony of eye-witnesses. He produced the original document. Its authenticity was verified by ascertaining its age by examining the signatures of the witnesses and especially by comparing the handwriting of the document with the handwriting in a document taken out and produced from the record office and known to have been written in the hand of the grand-father of the defendant.105

A record of 1178 A.D. from Managoli in the Bijapur District may be regarded as illustrative of the law of succession followed in the Deccan during this period. 106 The record is to the effect that "at Manigavalli, if anyone

should die without sons, his wife, female children, divided parents and brothers and their children.... and any kinsmen and relatives of the same *gotra* who might survive should take possession of all his property..... and if none such survive (the village authorities) should make over that property as a religious grant to those who hold the grant of the gods."107

We have some information about the organisation of courts of justice under the Vijayanagar rulers. The king was regarded as the chief judge.\* Mahalingam states that "we have good evidence to indicate that provincial governors held their own courts in their areas as the king did at the capital regardless of whether a judge held court at the same place or not."108 We have however, no information about the distribution of judicial work between the king and the other judges at the capital. The same scholar gives instances of the king hearing and deciding a case at first instance, though in general, he may have been hearing appeals from the decisions of other judges.109

At provincial courts the king's agents or Governors dispensed justice. In the outlying parts of the empire, there were popular courts such as those of village assemblies, temple trustees, and caste elders. 110 Village courts were manned by the village mahajanas and caste courts by the elders of the caste. Similarly leaders of the guild manned the courts of the guild and temple trustees decided disputes in their courts.

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\* Krishnadeva Raya's Amuktamalyada prescribes as one of the duties of the king that he should hear complaints from people in distress and redress their sufferings. But he himself did not dispense justice in all cases brought before him. There was a judge who administered justice on his behalf. According to Mahalingam it was the pradhani who actually acted as the Chief Judge. (T.V. Mahalingam: Administration and Social Life under Vijayanagar, p. 111). Pradhani was evidently a minister of the King. Mahalingam surmises from a statement of Abdur Razak to the effect that the "Danaik reports upon the affairs of the state to the King", (Elliot: History of India, IV, p. 108 quoted in Mahalingam op. cit., p. 111) and that there was a fusion in the pradhani of judicial and executive functions.

Speaking of procedure, Mahalingam thinks that civil disputes were generally settled by arbitration, though there appear to have been special judges for deciding civil cases, especially at the capital. 111 He gives a number of instances of disputes settled by arbitration. Sadasiva Raya referred a dispute of two parties of residents of Kondagai to be settled by the arbitration of learned men in the presence of Saluva Nayaka. 112 Similarly, an officer who had jurisdiction to try a case might request a body of persons to conduct the trial on his behalf. 113

We have some evidence to show that appeals from the people's courts lay to the courts of the king. 114 Trials by ordeal were not unknown during the period. 115 If dissatisfied by a decision of the popular assembly, appeal to ordeal was sometimes made, especially when a decision centred on the truth of an alleged fact, as is seen from an inscription of 1664 found at Abhinahole, in the Hiriyur Taluk. 116

In the Vijayanagar empire, as in almost all monarchies, ancient and modern, treason against the king or the state was regarded as a heinous crime. Krishnadeva Raya in his Amuktamalyadu prescribes immediate execution as punishment for treason. Disloyalty to associations (sangha) and the community as a whole (samudaya) was totally disapproved. 117 Treason, however, assumed a different connotation in certain circumstances in the empire. It is recorded that two sects in Vridhachalam met and made a declaration that those who assisted the king's officers who oppressed the people should be treated as traitors and stabbed. Ninety-eight subsections of the sects made an agreement among themselves that they would not submit to unjust taxation and declared certain acts as amounting to nattudroham (treason against the country) to be visited with punishment. 118 The view that obedience to government which oppressed the people or which did not care for the welfare of the people, constituted treason against the state was a refreshing and salutory gloss put on the concept of treason. 119

It may be a little imaginative to surmise, from the records available, that the law in force in the empire had a rule of prescription corresponding to what we are accustomed to in modern states. 120 According to an order issued by a subordinate of Sri Ranga-III, Kapus who had held temple or Brahmin land on mortgage by possession were required to restore the lands to the original owners without claiming any money from them after a period of

twelve years.121 It would appear that no rule relating to prescription, if such a concept formed part of the jurisprudence of the empire, could be derived from this order.

In criminal cases a rough and ready procedure appears to have been adopted. Nuniz speaks of the aggrieved person making his complaint direct to the king who settled it there and then and ordered the captain who accompanied him to do immediately what the complainant requested. 122 The king occasionally acted as accuser as well as judge. Krishna Raya, for instance, blinded and imprisoned his minister Saluva Timma and his sons on suspicion of their murdering the king's son Tirumala.

Village assemblies, temple authorities and provincial governors also exercised criminal jurisdiction. An inscription in the Chingalpattu District describes how a case of theft was tried by temple authorities. One Aindan was accused of having deprived God Kunravanaperumal of 150 pon from his garland. A collegiate court consisting of not less than twelve members tried the fugitive Aindan in absentia and pronounced sentence. 123 Local residents (nattars) also sometimes tried criminal cases.

There appears to have been occasional recourse to trial by ordeal in criminal cases also, where there was no reliable human evidence available. Nicolo dei Conti says: "In criminal charges oaths are allowed, when there is no witness to prove the offence."124 All the modes of oath taking described by dei Conti were in no way different from trial by ordeal. It would seem from his description that a person charged with an offence had to prove his innocence by going through one of the hazardous modes of taking oaths. For instance, dei Conti speaks of "he who swears that he is innocent of the offence charged against him plunges two fingers into [boiling] butter." It would appear that while in civil suits the plaintiff had to prove his claim against the position of the accused in criminal the trials was not available, as he had, in most cases, to prove his innocence. 125 It may however be recalled that it was the village assembly, or the elders of the community to which the accused belonged, that tried him and that they had some knowledge of the circumstances in which the offences had been committed. When a reference was made to the king's court it was generally for the determination of punishment rather than for the determination of issues. "In India", as Mahalingam observes, "administration of justice really meant the finding out of truth and was a sacred and religious duty imposed on the Kings."126 According to Varadachariar, this is made abundantly clear by numerous texts which declare that by miscarriage of justice the king will not only lose the goodwill of his subjects, but will also incur punishment for his sin. 127

Punishments for criminal conduct were very severe under the Vijayanagar rulers. Nuniz testifies that "for a thief whatever thefts he commits, however little it be, they forthwith cut off a foot and a hand and if this theft be a great one, he is hanged with a hook under the chin. 128 In a case of theft of temple jewellery, the convict was first imprisoned and later banished from his village, with one of his hands chopped off and his lands confiscated. 129

Sometimes criminals were tortured to death. 130 Treason was punishable with death. According to Abdul Razak, those who plotted against the life of Deva Raya-II were all put to death. Krishna Raya had laid down a guiding principle: "In the matter of people sentenced to death, give them the chance to appeal thrice (for mercy). But in the case of those people whose escape might bring on a calamity to yourself, immediate execution is advisable. 131

Apart from capital punishment, there were the common punishments of the times, like mutilation, forfeiture of property, fines, and ex-communication from caste.

Compensation appears to have been sometimes paid to the victims of crime. The children of Gaudayya, whose murderer was tortured to death as a punishment, were given Cikka Gangur as a nettara godage. 132

One inscription found at Basrur in the South Canara District speaks of something akin to blood money, though it is referred to as atonement (*prayascitta*). Atonement by way of a gift of money was made in the instant case for the murder of two men.133

It would seem that the state itself was willing to pay compensation if it happened to do injustice to the citizens. *Epigraphia Carnatica* relates an instance of the state compensating individuals for injustice done to them by the state. 134 Though the king was inclined to act as accuser and judge in his own cause, perhaps because all executive power as well as ultimate judicial

power vested in him, the willingness of the state in paying compensation to the victims of its own acts of injustice bespeaks a sincere attempt at conscientious administration of justice, even if it is not considered indicative of a cool protective shade of what we may now call the rule of law.

In some of the procedures followed, and the punishments inflicted, if not generally in the administration of justice, the French appear to have taken a leaf, or rather a few leaves, out of the Vijayanagar books, including, perhaps more than metaphorically *Amuktamalyada*.

## Administration of justice from 1701 to 1793:

Conseil Souverain: The earliest machinery for administration of justice set up by the French on the sub-continent appears to have been the Sovereign Council (Conseil Souverain) established in Surat by a royal edict of 1671. An edict of February 1701, promulgated by Louis XIV, established a similar Council in Pondicherry135 with jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters over those who "live or are going to live in the fort and town of Pondicherry and its dependencies as well as in the settlements of Houghly, Balasore, Kassimbazar, Kaveripatanam, Masulipatnam and others that could be subsequently founded in the whole kingdom of Bengal and all along the Coromandel coast ......"136

The Council was composed of Directors General of the French East India Company and in their absence, of the Directors of the establishment at Pondicherry and the merchants of the company residing in the establishment. The Conseil Supérieur (another body with local jurisdiction) deliberating with capable and honest French merchants and tradesmen, who would be invited to participate, handed down decisions in both civil and criminal matters. A bench of three judges was required in civil cases and of five at criminal trials. Provision was made in the edict for administration of justice in certain subordinate establishments by constituting as a court of first instance the head of the establishment sitting with two notable and honest French residents, in civil matters and with four for criminal cases. Appeal lay from the decisions of these courts to the Conseil Souverain in Pondicherry. 137 We shall have occasion to deal with those provincial councils later on.

Each of the councillors of the Conseil Supérieur had some special function assigned to him. Thus the first councillor, who officiated for the Governor in absence. was the President of the choultry court. of the administrative work he was entrusted with, especially during the Governor's absence or illness, he also sat as a judge in the Sovereign Council. The second was Commissioner (Commissaire) of the army, the third was incharge of stores. the fourth of armaments and the fifth acted as Procureur Général. Neither these functions nor the number of councillors was rigidly fixed. We find the number of the councillors varying from six to nine, all vested with administrative and commercial duties. However, they all sat by turn as judges in the Sovereign Council which held a weekly session on Tuesdays, 138

The company exercised the right to remove the councillors appointed by the king without assigning any reason. All that they were required to do was to fill the vacancies by appointing other councillors so that administration of justice was not brought to a stop for want of personnel. The Sovereign Council, in its turn, would occasionally refuse to recognise councillors appointed by the Company. 139

It appears that the company, instead of adhering to any principle of separation of powers actually favoured a fusion of functions as being expedient to promote its commercial interests. The court of justice was therefore required to function as an administrative council as well.

Because of the overriding powers exercised by the Governor, and the conspicuous absence of the principle of separation of powers, administration of justice did not always run smooth. There were clear instances of the Governor's arbitrary interference with the course of justice. One such was the case of the administrator of Chandernagore who was charged with a criminal offence. The Conseil Supérieur authorised the prosecution of the administrator; the Governor thereupon quashed the order of the conseil. The case however was dropped as hostilities soon broke out.

The fusion of functions necessitated the elimination of assessors in the tribunals. It was not improbable that assessors could have interests and views different from those of the company. To compensate for the absence of assessors, new councillors were appointed and their number was increased in subsequent years to form provincial councils (conseils provinciaux) which functioned as a court in place of the tribunals set up by the edict of 1701 in the various subordinate settlements.

After the capture of Pondicherry by the British in 1761 the company which had fallen on evil days resolved to relinquish all its property in favour of the King of France with the understanding that he would pay its debts. By an order of 8 April 1770 the king took over the possessions of the company. He permitted free trade in these possessions to all his subjects. As administration by the company ceased to exist, the Conseil Supérieur and the other provincial tribunals also ceased to exercise administrative functions. They once again became pure judicial bodies rendering justice to the subjects of the king. The reorganisation of the conseils was effected by a royal edict of 30 December 1772. According to the edict, the Conseil Supérieur which would render judgment in the last instance was to consist of the commandant general of the French Establishments and a Commissaire Général Ordonnateur (and in their absence those who officiated for them) and prominent French merchants and businessmen who could be co-opted, three for civil cases and five in criminal matters.

A royal edict of February 1776 reiterated the purpose for which the Conseil Supérieur and the Tribunals of First Instance were set up in the French Comptoirs by the edict of 1701. It stressed the fact that they were set up for the sole purpose of dispensing justice to the subjects of the King. Turning the Conseil Supérieur into an administrative body while retaining its functions as a court was a development not envisaged in 1701. The company thought it was better in its own interests if the tribunals concerned themselves with the affairs of the administration and commerce as well as matters of justice. The declaration of 30 September 1772, however, restricted the functions of the Conseil Supérieur and the other tribunals to those of rendering justice. But membership of the conseil was found inadequate and frequent interruption of its sessions affected the smooth and prompt running of the company's commercial activities; it was therefore considered necessary to reconstitute the conseil. The edict of 1776 abolished the existing council and established a new Conseil Supérieur to render justice, civil as well as criminal, with no cost at all, to all the subjects of the king, who had settled and who might settle in the French possessions in the south of India as well as in other parts of Asia. The conseil was to consist of the Commandant Général, an Intendant, or Commissaire Ordonnateur, a senior Officier d'Administration, who had the rank of Commissaire of the navy, seven permanent councillors, one Procureur Général and one chief greffier, two assessors, an alternate procureur (substitut) and a commis-greffier. The councillors, Procureur Général and the greffier were to be appointed by the king; but the administrators were authorised to appoint a

temporary greffier if any vacancy arose for that position. They could also appoint temporarily the substitute of the Procureur Général. The commis-greffler could also be appointed by them on the recommondation of the chief greffier, with the approval of the company. It was stipulated in the edict that when trying criminal cases, the council should have seven members present and when deciding civil disputes, the membership should be five. The assessors were to participate in the deliberation only in those cases where they acted as rapporteur. They could, however, take part in deliberations if the number of permanent councillors present was inadequate and major issues had been set down for decision. It was also provided that the alternate Procureur Général as well as the chief greffier could also act as judges in case of inadequacy in the number of judges. The king's recognition of the need to maintain the collegiate principle as well as his serious concern for the speedy dispensation of justice was emphasised in the authorisation given to the Conseil itself to invite notables to complete the required number of judges fixed by the edict, if the services of the officers designated could not be made available.

The council was given jurisdiction to try and decide in the first and last instance all charges and disputes between the King's subjects in Pondicherry and its dependencies, except for those matters which were expressly given over to the jurisdiction of other judges. The Council was also to decide in the last instance appeals from judgments rendered in civil and criminal matter by the Tribunals of First Instance in the other territories (comptoirs) in India.

The law to be applied was indicated in the edict by stipulating that the conseil was to conform, in its judgments and in its proceedings to the customs of Paris, to the special laws made and to be made for India, and to the provisions of the Ordinance of 1670; in all criminal matters, and in all matters (les affaires criminelles et en toutes matières) it had to conform to the laws and ordinances issued for the kingdom in general.

A familiar provision applicable to other comptoirs in India was reiterated in the edict. It was provided that Commandants and Commissaires in some of the comptoirs and heads of comptoirs where there was no Commandant or Commissaire would continue to dispense justice in the first instance. The officers mentioned above could invite three notables when deciding civil disputes and five when trying criminal cases. The decisions of these tribunals were

subject to appeal to the Conseil Supérieur at Pondicherry. The judgments pronounced in civil matters could, however, be executed, notwithstanding the appeal and without prejudice to it, by furnishing good and sufficient security.

The organisation envisaged in this edict was short lived. With the passage of a few years, a new set up was contemplated and provided for by law.

An edict of 1784 reorganised the judicial system in the establishments, generally restoring the position envisaged in the edict of 1701. This reorganisation was induced to a great extent by considerations of economy. The preamble of the edict set out that the king had recognised that the nature of litigious matters in India and the smallness of the area comprising the immovable properties belonging to the king's subjects settled there, required only, even during the period of prosperous trade in India and for a long time, a Conseil Supérieur consisting of merchants and French notables who could be called in sufficient number to render justice under the authority and with the assistance of the chiefs of commercial administration. Later on, impelled by a sense of uniformity and the desire to render the proceedings of the tribunal more continuous, the Conseil was abolished in 1776 and a new conseil consisting of permanent judges was established as in other colonies. It would appear that on further consideration, the king was convinced that by constituting the conseil as had been done before 1776 there could be prompt, simple and exact dispensation of justice with less burden on the finances of the establishments. edict therefore abolished the Conseil Supérieur as set up by the edict of February 1776. In its place a new Consell Supérieur was established, consisting of the Governor or Commandant Général or Intendant or Commissaire Général Ordonnateur, and in their absence, those who officiated for them, of a senior officer in the administration, of French merchants and notables of no less than 25 years of age who could be summoned to deliberate with the rest in dispensing justice. The conseil was given jurisdiction to try all disputes between inhabitants and residents of the town and Fort of Pondicherry, with three judges hearing civil cases and five trying criminal cases. The same number of judges was to hear appeals preferred to the conseil from other tribunals in the Establishments. All matters left to the exclusive jurisdiction of the administrators under the provisions of the edict of February 1776 were excluded from the purview of the conseil.

The edict authorised the Governor or Commandant Général or his representative to defer until receipt of the king's orders, the execution of sentence of death, in case the Governor, the Commissaire Ordom ateur and the Procureur unanimously considered that the convict could be pardoned or the sentence commuted. The Commandants and Commissaires in the territories and other chiefs where there was no Commandant or Commissaire were empowered to render justice in the first instance co-opting three notables in civil cases and five in criminal trials. Their judgments were subject to appeal to the Conseil Supérieur at Pondicherry. In civil cases, however, the judgments were provisionally executory notwithstanding and without prejudice to appeal provided good and sufficient security was furnished.

Provincial Councils: It may be recalled that the edict of February 1701 while establishing a Conseil Souverain for Pondicherry, also set up subordinate councils in the other Establishments. The chiefs of the Establishments, deliberating with notable and honest residents, three in civil matters and five in criminal cases—were empowered to administer justice in the first instance in their respective regions. From their decisions, appeal lay to the Conseil Souverain in Pondicherry. Notwithstanding the filing of an appeal, judgment rendered in the first instance could be executed, without prejudice to the appeal, on furnishing security. The provincial councils had a Procureor du Roi who exercised the same powers and functions as the Procureur Général attached to the Conseil Supérieur.

As the number of titular councillors who replaced the assessors was increased, provincial councils were formed in order to exercise the judicial functions conferred on the Chief of the settlements by the edict of 1701. In an attempt to restrict to the councils their exclusive judicial function as contemplated by the edict of 1701, King Louis by his edict of 30 December 1772 provided that the Commandants and Commissaires in the settlements dependent on Pondicherry and the chief of the settlements where there were no Commandants or Commissaires should administer both civil and criminal justice in the first instance, with the assistance of prominent merchants and businessmen, who could be co-opted, three in civil matters and five in criminal cases, to form the tribunal. This was virtually abolition of the provincial councils, substituting for it the Commandants and Commissaires. In spite of the avowed purpose in promulgating the edict, which was to invest the council exclusively with judicial powers, it is clear that by leaving those powers in the hands of administrative

officers who could select any three or five persons of their liking, judicial and executive functions were again being given to the same persons. Under the edict of 1701 as it was actually brought into operation, the same body of persons carried on both executive and judicial functions. Now it is practically a single member of the executive who carried out judicial functions, though assisted by a few persons of his choice. The saving grace of the edict was the provision for appeal to the Sovereign Council in Pondicherry from the decisions of these provincial tribunals.

The Choultry Court: With a view to dispensing justice to the indigenous population a court called **Tribunal de la Chaudrie** (Choultry Court) 140 was established in Pondicherry in 1728. It was composed of a civil lieutenant and two assessors, two clerks, one European and the other Indian, an Indian huissier (process server) and four interpreters.

The court was required to administer justice to Indians according to their own laws and customs. The French administration had from the very early days guaranteed to the indigenous population the preservation of their laws and respect for their customs. 141 The establishment of the choultry court was to help administer their own laws to the Indians. The tribunal was presided over by the second member – the first councillor – of the Conseil Souverain.

While the Conseil Souverain followed in civil cases the procedure laid down in the ordinance of 1667, exact knowledge is lacking about the procedure followed in the choultry court. 142 The court's procedure in criminal matters is, however, known to have been very summary in character. 143 At a trial which followed the filing of a complaint or report, the necessary investigation was made, and sentence pronounced: the sentence was also executed while the court was in session. 144

It was the common offences committed by Indians which were tried by the choultry court. The jurisdiction of the Conseil Souverain extended to the trial of serious crimes committed by Europeans as well as Indians. The punishment which could be imposed on the Indians were the following: (i) corporal punishments laid down in the ordinances and mutilation of the ears, (ii) slavery for a fixed period or in perpetuity in the islands of Bourbon and Ile de France, (iii) fines, (iv) confiscation, (v) banishment from the territory (vi) flogging with chabouc or whipping. These punishments could be imposed cumulatively. It appears that whipping was regarded as a compulsory accessory to all other punishments. 145

When Law de Lauriston was Governor, he effected certain reforms in the constitution of the choultry court as well as in the law applicable to Indians. An arrêté of 30 December 1769, sought to reorganise the court and the policing of the town. The court was now composed of a councillor of the Conseil Souverain who was its Président and two subdealers who acted as assessors. The presence of the President was essential to render a judgment valid. If one of the subdealers was absent the other two members including the Président, could try and judge cases; even if both were absent, the Président alone could function as a court. A majority of votes determined an issue; if there was an equal division of votes as when the Président and one assessor formed the bench, the voice of the Président prevailed. The judgments were, however, unanimous in that all the judges signed them. Two interpreters, one of whom was to be a Christian, were attached to the choultry court. There was, however, no officer of the public ministry (ministère public) at the court.

The court was given jurisdiction to judge not only disputes between Indians, but also between Indians and Europeans or Franco-Indians (Topas). 146

By a regulation of 18 November 1769, Law de Lauriston limited the right of appeal from decisions of the choultry court to suits whose value was not less than 50 pagodas. It was also required that the appellant furnish a security (fine) proportional to the value of the suit. It was fixed that 25 pagodas were to be deposited when the value of the suit was 50 pagodas, 33½ pagodas when the value was 100 pagodas, 50 when it was 200 pagodas, 80 when the value was upto 1000 pagodas and one-tenth of the sum when the value was above 1000 pagodas. In case the appeal failed, the amount of the deposit was confiscated to the company.

The production of new documents at the appellate stage was, in general, prohibited. If, however, the appellant produced such a document, and the Conseil Souverain was satisfied that it could have been produced before the Court of First Instance, the conseil would accept it only on payment of an arbitrary fine which was imposed on him. Clearly, all these provisions were intended to discourage appeals, except where important issues were involved.

The regulation of 30 December 1769 laid down certain procedural rules in regard to time-limit for filing appeals from the decisions of the choultry court. Appeals were required to be filed with the **Conseil Supérieur** within three months from the date the judgment of the choultry court was read out

to the parties. Within six weeks of filing the appeal, it had to be followed up in the Conseil Supérieur; otherwise it was liable to be declared as abandoned. The value of a suit for its being taken up in appeal in the last instance was fixed at Rs. 200 (480 francs) the fine for frivolous appeals was fixed at Rs. 100 (240 francs) irrespective of the value of the suit. The appellant was also required to deposit in the choultry court the whole amount he was adjudged liable to pay; in case of default of deposit, appeal was not to be entertained.

Advisory Chamber: A regulation of 27 January 1778 provided for the establishment of an Advisory Chamber (Chambre de Consultation) in Pondicherry. It consisted of eight Indians of not less than 25 years of age known for their integrity and their knowledge of the 'usage and customs' of the country and of the different castes so that they would be in a position to express an opinion on matters referred to them. They were to be appointed by the Chief Administrators of the colony. They were to meet at the choultry court as often as necessary to deliberate and decide on matters referred to them for consideration by the Conseil Supérieur or by the civil lieutenant or by the police lieutenant. In reaching a decision, the chamber was expected to conform to the laws, manners and customs of the country if the matter related to marriage, inheritance, wills and partitions or to rights and privileges of the castes, temples or endowments. When a matter relating to a relative of a member was referred to for the opinion of the chamber, that member was required to withdraw from deliberation. This obviously was to avoid any possible intrusion of bias in the decision. A further salutary check was placed on the members by the prohibition enacted in the regulation that neither the chamber nor any members of it should ask for or receive anything, for whatever reason, from the parties whose cause was referred to the chamber for its opinion. Any infringement of this prohibition would attract exemplary, deterrent punishment.

The regulation also imposed on the chamber and on each of its members the useful task of preparing a code of Tamil laws and a compilation of native customs including those peculiar to each caste, so that the courts would be enabled to decide disputes uniformly at all times.

The chamber functioned for about 40 years when it was abolished in October 1827 and was later replaced by the Advisory Committee on Indian Law in 1828.

#### The British interlude:

A colonial assembly consisting of 21 members set up in the establishments in the wake of the revolution in France decided to have only one tribunal in Pondicherry for civil cases. The Conseil Supérieur was to consist of a Président, four Councillors, four assessors, one Procureur Général, one alternate Procureur, one greffier, and two assistant clerks. This council could not function long, as Pondicherry was captured by the British on 21 August 1793.

For twentythree years, from 1793 to 1816 when Pondicherry was under the British, laws in force before the capture of the Establishment were continued in operation. For nearly four years, judicial organisation also underwent no change. In 1796, however, the British Governor suspended the work of the courts. But in June 1797 the courts were re-established, with some modifications in their organisation. The Conseil Supérieur was to have now five councillors; one of them to be appointed by the Government of Madras was to be the President The Procureur Général's office was retained. The jurisdiction of the conseil was limited territorially to the four establishments in the Presidency of Madras. It was not given jurisdiction to decide disputes between British subjects or try It was also enjoined from trying cases cases relating to public revenue. against French factories except those under the immediate protection of the British Government. Instead of the first councillor presiding over the choultry court, the work was now shared among the four councillors, who presided over it, each for three months a year. The Government of Madras set up a court of revision or cassation consisting of the commandant of Pondicherry, the Président of the Conseil Supérieur, the senjormost member of the Conseil Superieur, and two prominent residents. It was a court of appeal rather than a cour de cassation. When sitting to hear a petition for revision it was necessary to have a bench of three judges, one of them being either the commandant or the President of the Conseil Supérieur. It could quash the impugned decision: it could also retry a case. It however, did not entertain petitions for revision of judgments given in appeal by the Conseil Supérieur from decisions of the choultry court.

A Court of Administrators was constituted to decide disputes between French residents, creoles or foreigners. It was composed of the Commandant of Pondicherry and the **Président** of the **Conseil Supérieur**. Appeal from its decision lay to the Governor in Council in Madras. British subjects were excluded from its jurisdiction.

Pondicherry was restored to the French by the Treaty of Amiens (1802). After it had again fallen into the hands of the British, in 1805, a Court of Judicature, in place of the Conseil Supérieur, was established by the Governor of Madras.147 This court consisting of three judges and two assessors dealt with disputes of a civil nature between Europeans and between Europeans and Indians. The function of the assessors was advisory. If a judge was absentone of the assessors could take his place. The collegiate principle was recognised in that it was required that a judgment had to be passed by a bench of three judges. The three judges and two assessors could also constitute a court to try criminal cases when the offence was alleged to have been committed at Pondicherry or at one of its nine dependant villages, In these trials, the assessors had the right to participate in deliberations along with the three judges. The number of judges in criminal trials was to be at least five, but in special circumstances it could be seven by co-opting two or more assessors. In case five members of the court were not available, the three principal judges were empowered to choose one or more assessors from among the respectable European residents. The court was to meet three times a year to try criminal cases, on the first Mondays in April, August and December. No sentence of death was permitted to be carried out without the prior approval of the Governor in Council in Madras.

Article 7 of the regulation of 5 May 1805 which set up the Court of Judicature expressly stated that the formal procedure of the court should be as far as possible, those of the former (French) court in Pondicherry and the aws, customs and usage previously in force would be generally regarded as the principles on which the Court of Judicature should base its procedure and regulations and that its decisions should be regulated according to them.

The practice of appointing assessors in the choultry court was discontinued by the British Administration as early as June 1795. Ten years later, the choultry court was abolished. All disputes between Indians where the value of the claim did not exceed ten pagodas could be decided and settled in the last instance by the chamber. When the value exceeded that amount, it was necessary to obtain the confirmation of its decision by the Court of Judicature. 148 The parties nominated their own arbitrators and agreed to abide by their decision. When the arbitrators thus nominated could not agree, a third arbitrator was appointed. The party in whose favour a decision was made approached the Court of Judicature for its approval of the decision. Approval by any one of the judges carried with it the full force and authority of the court. 149

Further a few police regulations were adopted on 15 May 1805,150 It provided, among other things, that all civil disputes among Indians for amounts not exceeding ten pagodas should be decided without any possibility of appeal by arbitration at the bureau of the police. It also made a not altogether different provision in regard to civil suits in which the value of the claim exceeded ten pagodas. It was laid down that all civil suits between Indians or between a European plaintiff against an Indian defendant for the recovery of debts by promissory notes, deeds, acknowledgment deeds, statement of accounts, business operations etc., when the amount of the claim exceeded ten pagodas, should be settled by arbitration at the bureau of the police. The parties could choose their own arbitrators, and had to give an undertaking in writing that they would abide by the decision of the majority as was "the practice in such cases" (comme il est d'usage en pareil cas). In case there was an equal division of votes, the decision of an umpire chosen by both the parties would be regarded as final. In the case of disputes involving certain aspects of personal law the decision had to be arrived at by the heads of the caste to which the parties belonged. Thus it was provided that all disputes and differences between Indians regarding contracts of marriage and succession should be brought before the bureau of the police and the chief of the police would summon the heads of the parties' caste to decide the issue according to their own laws and customs. The parties themselves could also choose no more than six respectable persons from their caste to settle the disputes. Here again the parties were required to give a prior undertaking that they would abide by the decision reached by the heads of the caste or the respectable persons chosen by them, whichever was relevant in the particular instance.

It may be worth repeating that during these years when certain organisational changes were effected, Indo-French law continued to be administered by the British so that when Pondicherry was restored to the French in 1816, no lack in the continued operation of the law was felt.

## Judicial organisation after 1816:

## A historical perspective:

On 8 February 1817 the Conseil Supérieur and the provisional councils were re-established by the French. In 1819, a change in the name of the council was made; it was to be called Royal Court. More substantial changes were effected in later years.

A royal ordinance of 23 December 1827 effected certain substantial changes in the judicial organisation of the establishment. It established at Pondicherry a Court of the Justice of the Peace with jurisdiction over Pondicherry and its three dependencies. The court was composed of the Lieutenant of Police who acted as judge, an alternate judge and a greffier. The court functioned as a Court of the Justice of the Peace in civil disputes and a police court in criminal cases involving minor offences (contraventions de police). The functions of the ministère public were to be performed by the Inspector of Police when the court sat as a police court.

The ordinance also set up a Tribunal of First Instance at Pondicherry with the same territorial jurisdiction as that of the Court of the Justice of the Peace. The tribunal consisted of a king's judge and two juges auditeurs (assistant judges). Attached to it were a king's procureur, two greffiers, one European and the other Indian and a clerk. In case of absence or inability of the king's judge to attend to his work, a conseiller auditeur, appointed by the Administrator General was to officiate for him. It had jurisdiction to decide in the first and last instance civil actions, personal or pertaining to movables, where the principal value of the suit was now below 48 francs (Rs. 20) and did not exceed 480 francs (Rs. 200) and commercial actions where the value did not exceed 480 francs. It heard and decided in the first instance civil cases relating to real property and mixed actions, as well as personal actions and those relating to movables where the value of the suit exceeded 480 francs.

It had already been laid down by an ordinance of 26 May 1827 that the Lieutenant of Police could deal with the following matters, with no possibility of appeal, when the value of the suit did not exceed Rs. 10 (24 francs) and with possibility of appeal when the value of the claim exceeded that amount: (i) action for damage caused either by men or by animals to fields, fruits and crops; (ii) shifting of boundary marks, encroachment on lands, trees, trenches, and other enclosures committed during the year, encroachments upon rivers used for irrigation of fields committed during the year and all actions for possession; (iii) repairs incumbent on the tenant; (iv) compensation claimed by tenant farmer or lessee for non-enjoyment when the right to compensation was not disputed and dilapidation (dégénération) alleged by the owner; (v) payments of workers' wages, servants' wages and execution of the respective undertakings of masters and of their servants or workers and (vi) civil actions for slander, brawls, assault and battery.

The same ordinance had also provided that disputes arising between Indians on personal matters, chattels, or commercial matters and disputes in which one of the parties or both were foreigners not domiciled in the territory could be brought before the police court (tribunal de la police) irrespective of the value of the claim for being tried without any possibility of appeal upto a value of Rs. 20 (48 francs) and with possibility of appeal when the value of the claim exceeded that amount. The police court was also given jurisdiction to try police offences, thefts, swindles, brawls, assault and battery and infringement of ordinances and regulations relating to direct and indirect taxes.

Appeals from decisions of the Court of the Justice of the Peace in civil as well as police matters lay to the Court of First Instance. Decisions pertaining to certain matters of caste were however expressly exempted from the appellate jurisdiction of the court. Article 6 of the Ordinance of 26 May 1827 had provided that: "Special disputes other than those relating to interests and claims arising in the families of Indians or in the same caste about ceremonies, marriages, funerals and other matters called matters of caste are brought before the police judge and referred either to the Advisory Chamber (Chambre de consultation) or to the assembly of caste or of relatives for being considered there and decided upon in conformity with the custom, such decision being then confirmed by the judge, fully or partly, as necessary.

With respect to major disputes which may arise between one or more castes about their worship, customs or privileges, the police can deal with them only on the special authorisation of the Administrator who alone is competent to decide them."

No changes were introduced by the ordinance in the composition or jurisdiction of Tribunals of First Instance in the other French establishments in India. The choultry court which was in existence for nearly a hundred years was abolished, and all cases pending before that court were to be transferred to the tribunal of first instance. The Advisory Chamber was to continue to function and was to give advice whenever called upon by the courts.

It was however provided that one of the judges of the tribunal at Karaikal was to be a licentiate in law and was to be entrusted with investigations, examinations, orders and all proceedings in civil and criminal matters, in addition to his functions as judge commissioner (juge commissaire) and juge rapporteur.

The ordinance defined the jurisdiction of the King's Court (Cour Royale). It was to hear appeals in civil matters from decisions of the Tribunals of First Instance in various French establishments in India. It was also to hear appeals in correctional and criminal matters from judgments of tribunals from French establishments other than Pondicherry and its dependencies. It was the court of first and last instance in correctional and criminal matters for Pondicherry and its dependencies.

The ordinance also provided that notables could officiate for conseillers and conseillers auditeurs if the latter were unable to attend to their work.

A royal ordinance of 11 September 1832 effected a slight change in the composition of the King's Court when sitting to try criminal cases. It was provided that the bench of seven judges required to give decisions in criminal matters should be composed of four magistrates (judges) of the court and three prominent residents.

## The Judicial Organisation:

The judicial organisation in the French Indian establishments from 1842 to 1963, a period of about a dozen decades was based on an ordinance of 7 February 1842 as amended from time to time. In 1963 a few substnatial changes were made, but it was only in 1968 that a total change in the system took place.

The ordinance of 1842 sought to reorganise the whole system of judicial organisation. The article 4 expressly stated, for instance, that judges could not disturb in any manner the work of the administrative bodics, nor summon before them administrators, on account of their functions, as otherwise they would be charged with abuse of authority. This clear-cut separation of powers was a great revolutionary change from the position adopted by the sovereign council over a century before. This ordonnance was amended in certain details, among others, by a décret of 29 July 1939 which downgraded the court of appeal into a superior tribunal of appeal, by the décret of 1 March 1879 which gave extended jurisdiction to the Courts of Justice of the Peace in Mahe and Yanam and by the décret of 11 May 1934 which abolished the Courts of the Justice of the Peace with ordinary jurisdiction. The décret of 22 August 1928, however, made certain substantial changes.

The courts in the establishments as constituted before the *de facto* cession in 1954 consisted of the following:

- (i) Superior Tribunal of Appeal (Tribunal Supérieur d'Appel) at Pondicherry with a Président, two other judges, and a Procureur de la République.
- (ii) Tribunal of First Instance, second class, at Pondicherry with a President, a judge, and Assistant Judge (Juge Suppléant) and a Procureur de la République.

Tribunal of First Instance, third class, at Karaikal, with a President, an Assistant Judge and a Procureur de la République.

(iii) Courts of Justice of the Peace with extended jurisdiction (compétence étendue) at Mahe and Yanam, each consisting of one judge and a greffier.

The Procureur de la République at the Superior Tribunal of Appeal performed the functions of the head of the Judicial Department.

With the abolition of the Courts of the Justices of the Peace with ordinary jurisdiction, the right of appeal of the litigants whose cause was of small pecuniary value or who were convicted of minor infractions of the criminal law was taken away from them. The principle that every litigant has a right of appeal to a higher court was not disputed; but it was considered unnecessary to have an appeal where the pecuniary value of the suit or the penalty likely to be imposed was insignificant. Those disputes were sought to be placed, under the décret of 22 June 1934, before a judge belonging to the second degree of jurisdiction, that is, the President of the Tribunal of First Instance or a judge delegated by him. These justices with enhanced competence had the same jurisdiction in civil matters as that of the Tribunal of the First Instance. When the Justices of the Peace with enhanced competence sat as Police Tribunal (Tribunal de Simple Police) to try persons charged with petty offences they could impose a sentence of simple imprisonment for five days or a fine of fifteen francs. It was from such sentences that there was no provision for appeal. The Superior Tribunal of Appeal at Pondicherry however, acted in these petty matters as a Court of Cassation, in place of the Cour de Cassation at Paris.

Tribunal of First Instance: In the Tribunal of First Instance was vested general jurisdiction (**Tribunal de Première Instance**). It had jurisdiction over all disputes of a civil nature which were not referable to any special tribunal by any express provision of law. Over cases whose pecuniary value was not more than Rs. 900 it had jurisdiction in the last instance, that is, its decisions were not subject to appeal. The **décret** of 31 May 1873 had specifically stated

that when the tribunal decided disputes in personal and commercial matters where the amount involved was not more than Rs. 900 (1,500 francs) as principal, and actions relating to immovables where the revenue was Rs. 30 calculated on the basis of amount of lease or rent, actions relating to immovables other than houses, buildings or gardens liable to a land tax of Rs. 7.20 a year, there was to be no appeal, but there could be review by Cour de Cassation. When the pecuniary value was over Rs. 900 there was provision made for appeal to the Superior Tribunal of Appeal.

The President of the Tribunal of First Instance was entrusted with a variety of duties; some of them he generally delegated to an Assistant Judge. He could issue orders of a provisional character in a summary procedure, when petitioned in cases of urgency without prejudice to the final decision given after going into the merits of the case. Those référé proceedings generally prevented the defendant in the petition from making use of an advantageous position he was in owing to fortuitous circumstances. For instance, at the death of a parent who lived with his youngest son, his movables including money and jewellery could be ordered to be kept sealed on petition by the other sons, lest the youngest one should remove them or alienate them. This in no way would prejudice the claims of the youngest son at a proper partition to be effected later.

The **Président** generally reserved to himself the civil cases within the jurisdiction of the tribunal and delegated one of the Assistant Judges to deal with those cases which could have been dealt with by the Justice of the Peace had his office not been abolished by the décret of 22 June 1934. In this delegated capacity the Assistant Judge decided in the last instance disputes where the pecuniary value involved did not exceed Rs. 360 (600 francs). Before adjudicating disputes of this nature which fell within the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace, it was required of the judge to attempt a settlement of the dispute through conciliation. In the same capacity, he presided over family councils to see that the properties of a person under guardianship were not dissipated to his detriment. The properties of a person under the guardianship could not be mortgaged or sold without a decision of the family council authorising such an act and confirmation of the decision by the court.

The Assistant Judge, in exercise of the powers delegated to him, taxed bills of costs of advocates, settled the order of priority among creditors when a judicial distribution of the proceeds of a debtor's property had to be made and supervised the conduct of court auctions.

In its criminal jurisdiction, the Tribunals of First Instance sat as correctional court and dealt with infractions of law for which the punishments imposed were known as correctional penalties, that is, imprisonment from six days to five years, a fine of more than 15 francs with suspension of civil, political and personal rights. It was generally the Assistant Judge who presided over the correctional court under the authority delegated to him by the President of the Tribunal. Presiding also over the Police Court, he tried cases of minor infractions for which the punishment provided was imprisonment for one to five days and fine of one to 15 francs.

It was the duty of the **Procureur de la République** to set in motion criminal proceedings. In case of inaction on his part, it was for the injured party to initiate proceedings in the criminal court.

The Justices of the Peace with enhanced competence at Mahe and Yanam had the same powers and functions as the Tribunal of First Instance. They dealt with matters within the jurisdiction of the Tribunals of First Instance as well as those within the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace with ordinary jurisdiction. The latter category of cases they decided in the last instance. The decisions they handed down in the exercise of their enhanced powers as a Court of First Instance were appealable before the Superior Tribunal of Appeal at Pondicherry.

Superior Tribunal of Appeal: The collegiate principle was scrupulously followed in the Superior Tribunal of Appeal. Three judges sat together and heard appeals from the Tribunals of First Instance as well as from the Courts of the Justice of the Peace with enhanced competence, also appeals against provisional orders passed by the President of the Tribunal of First Instance and that of the Commercial Court in référé proceedings. While performing the functions of a Cour de Cassation in matters referred to it by tribunals exercising powers of the Justices of the Peace with ordinary jurisdiction, it was a three-man bench that deliberated and handed down decisions.

The time-limit fixed for appeals in civil cases was one full month and in correctional matters, ten days from the notification of the judgment. A time-limit of ten days from the notification of judgment in civil cases and of three days from the date of delivery of judgment in police court cases was allowed when petitions were filed for annulment of the judgment before the tribunal sitting as a Court of Cassation.

In criminal matters it was for the investigating judge (Juge d' Instruction) to decide whether a complaint should be dismissed or referred to the court for trial. From his decision, an aggrieved party (partie civile) as well as the Procureur de la République could appeal to a Chamber of the Superior Tribunal of Appeal known as Chambre de Mise en Accusation (Committing Chamber). If the investigating judge, during his investigations found that the offence committed was a crime (that is, an offence punishable with imprisonment for over five years), he issued an ordonnance de renvoi to the committing chamber to be seized of the matter: if he found that the offence was a dellt 151 crime. he sent the case to the correctional tribunal. Three judges of the appellate tribunal were expected to comprise the committing chamber; but in Pondicherry as the appellate tribunal consisted of three judges only, it was not proper to constitute a bench of three judges from that court to function as a committing chamber and later require the same judges to be members of the sessions court to try the cases committed for trial by the chamber. To obviate this difficulty, the committing chamber used to be composed of a judge of the Superior Tribunal of Appeal, an Assistant Judge of the Tribunal of First Instance and an Advocate. The Sessions Court at Pondicherry used to be composed of three members of the Superior Tribunal of Appeal and four assessors. In the other establishments it consisted of a judge of the Superior Tribunal of Appeal, a judge of the Tribunal of First Instance or a Justice of the Peace and an officer nominated every year Governor, apart from the four assessors. In theory a criminal session sat every quarter at each of the establishments to try persons referred to the Sessions Court by the Committing Chamber at Pondicherry. When the trial was to take place in Karaikal, Mahe or Yanam, one of the judges of the appellate tribunal was sent to this place accompanied by the Procureur de la République.

The assessors who sat with the judges at a sessions trial were chosen from a panel of prominent persons nominated every year for the purpose. Although all the persons in the panel were summoned before the trial, the assessors for the case were selected by drawing lots. The defence counsel could challenge the selection of four assessors without assigning any reason and the **Procureur de la République** was accorded the same right. Two alternate assessors also were selected for every trial. Until his guilt was proved, the accused was presumed to be innocent in exactly the same way as is done in common law jurisdiction.152 A majority of judges and assessors together

declared whether the accused was guilty or not. Then the **Président** (Presiding Judge) of this sessions court after considering extenuating circumstances, if any, pronounced sentence. The sessions court was empowered to sentence an offender, according to the gravity of the offence, to such penalties as capital punishment, rigorous imprisonment for life, deportation and imprisonment in another colony.

Civil intervention in criminal proceedings is an important feature of the French Procedure. In every French criminal proceeding, person injured may make himself 'partie civile'. The aggrieved party may instead of filing a separate civil action, interpose in criminal proceedings against the delinquent and demand reparation for malicious prosecution. There is no parallel system in India.

Another useful institution in the French law pertains to the system of suspended sentences called Sursis. Under this system although the offender is convicted and sentenced to vindicate law, the execution of the sentence is suspended. If the offender does not commit any offence during the given operational period, his sentence stands automatically revoked. The intention is to keep the person away from the prison where there is a possibility of his getting mixed with the habitual offenders.153

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Cour de Cassation, Paris:

There was provision for the decisions of the Superior Tribunal of Appeal and those of the Tribunal of First Instance which were not appealable, to be challenged, on questions of law, by the Cour de Cassation in Paris. The principle of "double degree of jurisdiction" enshrined in French jurisprudence stipulates that there should be one appeal and only one in a law suit. The one exception to this principle is in the case of petty litigation where there is no provision for appeal. There is also no appeal from a decision of Cour d'assises (sessions court) but here there are proceedings before the committing chamber. Cassation is not appeal. The term cannotes what is done by the Cour de Cassation when a decision of the lower court is brought before it for review. It does not reopen or rehear the case on questions of fact or on the evidence. It considers only the question of law raised by the petitioner before it and either dismisses the petition or remands the case. When it decides to remand the case it is remanded to a court of equal rank

The ordinance, while providing for this Advisory Committee, abolished the Advisory Chamber established in 1778.

Labour Court: By an order of the Governor issued on 20 May 1954 a labour court was set up in Pondicherry. It was composed of a President, four Assessors and a Secretary. The President was generally a judge nominated by the President of the Superior Tribunal of Appeal. For the decision of a case the President of the Court invited two employer-assessors and two employee-assessors belonging to the category concerned with the particular litigation from a panel of assessors appointed every year by the head of the territory. The categories were: (i) industries, (ii) commerce, professions, banking transport (iii) public works and (iv) domestic services. The Secretary of the court was appointed by the head of the Territory from among administrative officers.

The court had jurisdiction to decide individual disputes relating to a contract of employment between workers and their employers, as also individual disputes relating to collective agreements or orders which were passed in lieu of such agreements. Further it could also deal with disputes between employees arising in the course of their employment.

A dispute for decision was brought before the court by an oral or written declaration made to the Secretary of the Court. A defendant in an ex parte decision had ten days after the notification of the judgment, in addition to the time-limit allowed in consideration of distance, to file his opposition, that is his petition to quash the judgment and rehear the case. Appeals from the decisions of the court lay to the Tribunal of First Instance.

This labour court set up under the provisions of the French Labour Code ceased to exist on 1 October 1963, when labour laws in force in other parts of India were extended to the Union Territory.

Administrative Court: The system of administrative tribunals generally regarded as perhaps the most glorious feature of French jurisprudence, was introduced in the Establishments in 1881. A décret of 7 September 1881 extended to all French colonies a décret of 5 August of the same year relating to the organisation and powers of administrative courts. An amendment to the décret made in 1947 defined afresh the jurisdiction of the court (Conseil du Contentieux administratif). The décret of 12 April 1947 laid down that the administrative court should take cognizance of any administrative dispute arisin g

on account of an act (acte) performed on behalf of the local government, or on account of the performance of a public service within the purview of that government and generally, unless otherwise provided by law, of any dispute falling under the category of administrative disputes.

The court was composed as per the décret dated 30 December 48 of a President who should be a member of the Superior Tribunal of Appeal, two Government officials selected preferably from among those who had a degree in law and two judicial officers. An official who was a graduate in law was to perform the duties of the Government Commissioner, and those of the secretary of the court were entrusted to an official of the general administration or in default to one of the local administration. The head of the Territory appointed to the court as many alternates as there were regular members, the former fulfilling the same conditions as those laid down for the latter.

Any conflict of jurisdiction which might arise between the administrative court and the ordinary courts was to be settled by the Court of Conflicts (Tribunal de conflits) in Paris.

The décret of 5 August 1881 laid down, among other things, the procedure to be followed in the court when dealing with a matter before it.

Petitions addressed to the court as well as all documents relevant to the cases before the court were to be submitted at the office of the Secretary. Notice of the petition could also be given through a huissier. If the latter procedure was followed, it was incumbent on the party concerned to deposit the petition, in the original, at the Secretary's office within eight days from the date of giving notice. When Government was the plaintiff, the officer appointed to act on their behalf was required to deposit a memorandum addressed to the court at the Secretary's office along with relevant documents and a sufficient number of copies according to the number of parties involved. After registration of the petition, a rapporteur was appointed to make the necessary investigation. When a brief report was made by the rapporteur, the President of the court ordered the communication of the petition to the parties concerned. He also fixed the time within which defendants were expected to make their statements. Within fifteen days from the date of communicating the statements of the defendants, the plaintiff could submit a statement. A period of fifteen days was allowed for the defendants to submit a rejoinder. After necessary verifications had been carried out the rapporteur drew up a note and a draft order. The whole file of the case along with the note and the draft order was then sent to the government commissioner. On the day fixed for hearing, one of the members of the court made a report which could be followed by oral submissions by the parties, in person or through an agent. The government commissioner then reads his conclusions. If the court found it necessary, the parties might be examined, witnesses called and experts asked to give their opinion. When a decision was taken by a majority in secret deliberation by the members of the court, judgment was delivered in open court. The judgment itself contained the executory formula. No separate decree as such was drawn up. It was then published in the Gazette.

Conseil d'Etat: Conseil d'Etat in Paris heard appeals from the judgments of the adminstrative court. The prospective appellant was required to make a declaration, containing grounds of appeal, to the effect that he proposed to prefer an appeal. Within sixteen days the declaration would be notified to the respondent or a copy of it served on him. The petition for appeal was to be filed within three months either in the litigation section of the Conseil d'Etat or at the Office of the Secretary of the court. If the second method was adopted, the petition would be forwarded by the government to the litigation section of the Conseil.

The general rule was that the parties should be represented by counsel before the Conseil d'Etat. But there were a few exceptions as in cases relating to direct taxes and taxes assimilated to them for purposes of realisation, elections and minor offences which it was the concern of the administrative court to repress.

Legal-aid: A décret of 16 January 1854 introduced legal assistance to the indigent litigant in the Establishments. A petition supported by the proof of his indigence had to be submitted by the litigant to the judge who would either constitute himself, or preside over, the court which would take a decision on the request for legal aid. The petition was to be considered not only on the basis of the evidence of poverty, but also on the prima facie merits of the claims made in the suit. The judge would summon the opposite party who could challenge the statement regarding indigence and also make his submission on the merits of the claim. When the opposite party appeared, the judge was expected to use his good offices to bring about a friendly settlement. In the

Tribunal of First Instance and the Superior Tribunal of Appeal the petition for legal aid would be communicated to the **Procureur de la République** with a view to enabling him to express his opinion on the request. If he was in favour of the request the court would pass an order granting legal aid.

Judicial Officers: The judges who manned the tribunals in the early days of the French administration in India had no legal qualification. We have seen that merchants and tradesmen used to sit as judges in the tribunals established during the period. A statement made by the President of the court at Chandernagore is revelatory of the position. He said:

In fact, the labyrinth of laws so extensive, the profession of the judge so difficult and the multiplicity of forms so complicated, that those who have made a hard study all their life can hardly flatter themselves of being informed well enough not to lose their way. How then can those who have only common sense coupled with the highest integrity remain unaffected by the fear of unjustly depriving their fellow citizens of honour, wealth and perhaps of life?

The position of the judge was therefore not enviable. A complete reorientation of the magistracy was effected by a décret of 22 August 1928. The décret laid down rules which were to govern the colonial judiciary.

Various categories of persons were eligible for appointment to the colonial judiciary. They included advocates, notaires and avoués in the colonies holding the degree of licentiate in law who had practised their profession for ten years. Professors and agrégés of the state faculties of law and lecturers of state faculties of law with experience of two years, and chief registrars of the courts of appeal and civil courts in the metropolis, holding the degree of licentiate in law and having put in at least ten years of service. It is important to note that weightage was given to legal practice when appointing magistrates to the colonial judiciary.

Certain educational qualifications and practical experience were regarded as essential for appointment as Justices of the Peace with ordinary jurisdiction According to the décret no one could be appointed to the position unless he had obtained the degree of licentiate in law and had undergone training for two years either at the Bar, or in the office of a notaire or avoué, or on the office of a greffier or as attaché in a parquet général of colonies or territories

under the ministry of colonies. Avoués who had fifteen years of experience in the colony were exempted from the requirement regarding the holding of the degree of licentiate. With a few exceptions, all candidates were expected to pass a professional test.

Perhaps the most important characteristic of the French judiciary is what is known as **inamovibilité** (irremovability). To be **inamovible** means that the incumbent cannot be removed, suspended or transferred except under conditions contemplated in clean legal provisions. Their removal, suspension or transfer is therefore not in the discretion of the executive. The principle of **inamovibilité** was however, inapplicable to the judicial officers in the administrative departments and in the **ministère public**.

In order further to ensure their independence and impartiality, there was a promotion committee at the Ministry of Colonies which drew up a promotion list. The Committee was composed of a president of a chamber and three judges of the Cour de Cassation, nominated every year jointly by the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Colonies, three magistrates from the colonies nominated by the Minister of Colonies with the consent of the Minister of Justice, the Director of Personnel in the Ministry of Colonies and the Chef de Cabinet in the Ministry of Colonies. Promotions were generally made in the order of inclusion in the promotion list except for appointment to the post of Procureur de la République.

Magistrature debout: There was a **Procureur Général** attached to the Sovereign Council set up by the edict of 1701. He was generally the last of the councillors, sometimes a sub-dealer. Apart from the duties laid down by the edict of 1707, he was also expected to safeguard the interests of the company. He upheld the rights of the company in the territories that had been gifted to it. 154 As the person in-charge of all unclaimed estates, he could dispose of them and send the sale proceeds and the relevant deeds to the company. It was his duty to see that law and order was maintained and he asked for appropriate sanctions from the council for the purpose. When in 1738 some clever counterfeiters introduced into the establishments gold coins of an assay inferior to that in use there, the **Procureur Général** induced the council to issue an arrêté imposing a fine and fifty lashes of the whip for those who uttered counterfeit coins.

Officers of the ministère public attached to all regular courts acted as public prosecutors in the conduct of serious criminal cases, as joint party in civil cases to present the public interest.

The ministère public was headed by the Minister of Justice. The designation given to the head of the ministère public before a Court of First Instance as well as before a Superior Tribunal of Appeal was Procureur de la République. The members of the ministère public, like the judges, were called 'Magistrats'. They were considered equal to judges drawing the same salary as judges in corresponding positions and sat on a special dais in the court room separately from the judges. The qualifications for appointment, conditions of service and rules regarding promotion were the same for them as for the judges, except that they did not enjoy inamovibilité.

The ordinance of 7 February 1842 provided that the court should deliver judgment only after hearing the **procureur** in his address to the court. He was not present when judges deliberated to decide upon the judgment to be passed, but his presence was necessary in deliberations relating to order, internal service and discipline.

Though procureurs were expected to represent the Government, they actually did represent the public interest. They would, for instance, prepare and file written papers according to the orders of their superiors; but while expressing their view before the court they could say what they thought fair and just, irrespective of the position taken in the papers submitted. As the French would say, the pen is slave but the word is free.

The décret of 22 August 1928 laid down the qualifications required for appointment as attachés in the parquet général of the colonies. It provided, among other things, that the attachés should be holders of the degree of licentiate in law and must have passed the professional test for judicial posts. The attachés, if found suitable, were asked to officiate as temporary judges and after a period of probation, they were generally appointed judges in the colonies.

There were two **Procureurs de la République** at Pondicherry, one before the Tribunal of First Instance and the other before the Superior Tribunal of Appeal. The **procureurs** at Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam were required to perform the same duties as the **Procureur de la République**, but under the guidance of the **Procureur de la République** before the Superior Tribunal of Appeal at Pondicherry.

Advocates: During the days when the Sovereign Council was the main judicial body in the establishments, there appears to have been no bar nor any institution similar to that of approved counsel. 155

By 1826, however, European and Indian Counsels were authorised to appear before the courts in Pondicherry. In the French Indian Establishments, however, there was a fusion of the two branches of the profession in the person of avocats-conseils and conseil-agréés (approved counsel). These advocates various acts procedure which were permitted to perform the of avoués (solicitors) in the metropolis were entitled to do. To be called to the Bar, French citizens or indigenous subjects in the colony who were not less than twenty-one years of age and who had obtained the degree of licentiate in law had to undergo probation for two years doing diligent work in the office of an avocat conseil or conseil agréé. Those who had obtained the certificat de capacité en droit were allowed to be accepted as conseil-agréés stagiaires. As the avocats-conseils and conseils-agréés could generally take only one person for probation in his office and two persons with the special permission of the Bar Council, the number of avocats-stagiaires (advocates on probation) and consequently the number of advocates in the Establishments came to be limited.

Further the number of legal practitioners was fixed by law. In 1932, there were 12 avocats-conseils and 6 avocats-stagiaires at Pondicherry, 8 avocats-conseils and 4 avocats-stagiaires at Karaikal, 4 conseils agréés and one conseil agréé stagiaire at Mahe, and 4 conseils agréés and one conseil stagiaire at Yanam. The arrêté of 12 January 1950 fixed the number of practitioners as follows:

Pondicherry .. 20 avocats-conseils

Karaikal .. 12 avocats-conseils

Mahe ... 8 avocats-conseils or conseils-agréés

Yanam .. 8 avocats conseils or conseils-agréés

Advocates on probation were permitted to plead, but not to represent the parties. Avocats-conseils and Conseils agréés were entitled to plead as well as represent the parties in all civil, criminal, commercial and administrative matters.

As a condition precedent for admission to the Bar, advocates and approved counsel had to furnish a security of immovables or 3000 francs in cash at Pondicherry, 2000 francs at Karaikal and 500 francs in Mahe and Yanam.

Notaires: Notaires were public officials appointed to record all deeds and contracts to which the parties should or wished to give the character of authenticity associated with the acts of a public authority, in order to ensure the date of their execution, to keep them in safe custody and to deliver copies both common and executory. 156

A notaire was considered a public official, because he derived his authority directly from the State as he was appointed by the Government and also because his actes were invested with executory force. In fact, notaire of the French establishments had only a tenuous, nominal relationship with the notary public of British India. The authenticity that a notarial act derives had been described as the attestation of a fact by a public authority whose declaration was conclusive without previous verification, until impeached for falsity.157 Further the grosse (executory copy) of a notarial act which concludes with an executory formula identical with the one found in orders issued by courts was self-executory. For instance, a creditor who was armed with a grosse relating to his loan could levy execution on his debtor's property without any proceedings in a court.

The institution of **notaires** in the French establishments in India may be traced back to the days of the establishment of the sovereign council. One of the members of the council functioned as a **notaire** and all the income accruing from his work went to the coffers of the company. Later on notarial work was assigned to a subdealer.

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As for the tabellion (Indian notary), the position was held hereditarily by a family for over a century and half. Formerly it appears to have been given on lease. But to Nainiyappa, a rich and infleuential person who held the post around 1729 it was given as a gift. Later on it was sought to be bought back from his descendants by the company for a sum of 400 pagodas. Though the administration in Pondicherry indicated that it was unjust and hazardous to buy back the gift, the notarial rights of the tabellion were finally got back for a consideration.

A regulation of 18 November 1769 required that all contracts for sale of immovable properties should be executed in the presence of the notary or the tabellion of the choultry court. It also stipulated that all Indians, including Indian Christians but not Muslims desirous of making a will should call the tabellion, along with the interpreter of the choultry court belonging to their religion and witnesses whom they considered suitable. 158

There were a number of edicts and regulations relating to the notarial system in Pondicherry before the adoption of the décret of 24 August 1887 which reorganised the system in the Establishments. The décret of 1887 repealed all the previous enactments on the subject. 159 But the salutary condition imposed by a décret of 16 July 1878 that the presence of an interpreter was necessary when executing a notarial act if one of the parties or one of the witnesses could not understand French appears to have been kept alive. 160

The number of notaires appointed to a place or region was limited. It was fixed at six for Pondicherry region by a décret of 7 May 1890; a décret of 22 July 1922 allotted four notaires to Karaikal region. Mahe and Yanam had one notaire each; the number for Mahe was increased to two in 1953. 161 A notary was required to reside at the place fixed for him in the order of appointment issued to him.

The Procureur Général was in-charge of the discipline of the notaires. He could issue a call to order, censure by way of reprimand, or give a warning. He could, if found necessary, recommend severe punishments such as suspension, replacement or removal from office. Suspension could only be for a year. Replacement or removal from office required confirmation by the President of the Republic.

With the extension of the Indian Registration Act, 1908 and the Notaires Act, 1952 to Pondicherry in 1968, notaires ceased to function in the Union Territory. An amendment of the Advocates Act, 1961, however, enabled them to be enrolled as advocates. 162

Huissiers: The duties of huissiers ranged over a wider field than what is connoted by the terms bailiff or process-server though these are the expressions generally used to denote or describe them. They served legal papers, and levied execution, but a very important function they performed related to their

acting as a commission to observe and investigate matters on the spot and make an authentic record. According to the décret of 14 June 1813 all summons, notifications, as well as notices and writs required for the enforcement of the orders of tribunals were to be made by huissiers except for certain exceptions legally provided for. In criminal matters they were to carry out all acts which the **Procureur de la République**, the investigating judge and the parties called upon them to do.

Before recruitment to the position of huissiers, a candidate had to sit for an examination which included oral and written tests. The written test consisted of the drafting of a legal paper, the kind of paper huissiers had generally to serve and an essay in the language of the Establishment to which the candidate, if successful, would be appointed. The oral test covered a number of topics in the Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure, the Commercial Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure. They had to be on probation for a period of eighteen months.

The number of huissiers was fixed for each Establishment. There were six in Pondicherry, two for the Superior Tribunal of Appeal and four for the Tribunal of First Instance; five in Karaikal, two in Mahe and one in Yanam.

A society (communauté) of huissiers was required under law to be formed in each Establishment comprising all the huissiers there. Every huissier remitted certain amounts every month to the common fund maintained by the society. There was a scheme of social security envisaged for them in the arrêté of 1 July 1936. The society at a general meeting could allocate funds to make monthly payments to huissiers who were discharged on account of infirmity or old age, as well as to the wives and children of deceased huissiers.

On the extension of Civil Courts Amins Act, 1856 to Pondicherry when their office ceased to exist, huissiers were permitted to be enrolled as advocates.

Greffiers: Two categories of personnel in the local registry of the court, namely assistant registrars and clerks were envisaged by the arrêté of 6 June 1939. Appointment to the post of assistant registrars was dependant on the candidate's being declared successful at a competitive examination. Only those

who had passed the first part of baccalauréat, or possessed the diploma or brevet élémentaire or the certificate of the first degree of secondary education or the certificat du capacité en droit were permitted to sit for the examination. The candidates selected for appointment were required to be on probation for one year. In certain cases the period of probation was extended by a further period of one year on the recommendation of the Chief of the Judicial Service. Assistant Registrars were required to reside at the place where the tribunal to which they were attached was situated.

Bar Council: There was a Bar Council in each of the Establishments to look after the interests of the Bar. The Council could decide on applications for enrolment on the rolls of advocates on probation. When functioning as a disciplinary council, it could take action against legal practitioners for infractions and fraud committed by them. The Council was authorised to apply sanction like warning, censure, suspension and disbarment.

With the extension of the Advocates Act, 1961, with certain modifications, to the Union Territory of Pondicherry, the monopoly of the Avocats Conseils ceased to exist. Section 58AA which was inserted in the Advocates Act, made special provision for the enrolment as advocates of persons who had been practising the profession of law "by way of pleading, or acting or both or in any other way" before the date of the extension of this Act. The expression "in any other way" used in the section in relation to the practice of law was given a every liberal interpretation and not only avocat—conseils and conseils-agréés, but also notaires, huissiers, and all those holding the degree of "Licence en Droit" or the diploma of "Capacité en droit" were admitted to the roll of advocates.

#### Applicable Laws:

From the practice of the courts set up by the French in the XVIII century, it may be gathered that the laws in force at the time they took over the administration were the rules of dharma sastra as varied by customs among the Hindus. Quranic laws along with local customs appear to have been applicable to the Muslims. The French were eager to follow the customary laws while administering justice to the Indians under them; so what they acknowledged and accepted as the laws of the indigenous inhabitants may be regarded as the law in vogue at the time.

It has already been mentioned that the French administration had guaranteed to Indians the application of their own laws and customs. The regulation of 30 December 1769 specifically stated:

"The nation having undertaken from the very beginning of its establishment in Pondicherry to try the local native inhabitants and other Indians who had recourse to French courts, according to their own customs and usages, the lieutenant general is required to conform in this regard, to the practice followed until this day by the civil bench of the choultry court." 163

All criminal cases were however to be dealt with according to French law. It was stated in the regulation that the criminal laws of the indigenes would not be accepted. 164

The regulation of 18 November 1769 laid down certain rules derived from local usages. It was thus provided that all Hindu and Christian natives who exchanged palm-leaves or letters for loans observe the law of pancharedipatiram as was traditionally done. The rule required that the creditor and the debtor as well as two witnesses and the scribe sign the palm leaf or letter that was exchanged. 165

The Governor also attempted to remedy an evil which was prevalent at the time; this was the pernicious habit of interposing a third person in the making of private contracts. One of the articles of the regulation of 18 November 1769 stipulated that all Hindus, Muslims and other Indians should execute deeds, mortgages, sale deeds of immovables and all other contracts in their own name, in the presence of the notary (tabellion) of the choultry court. They were prohibited from employing the name of their master or any other third person. Any contravention of the prohibition was to be visited with a penalty of fine and heavy punishment according to the circumstances of the case. 166

Extension of Central Enactments: After the transfer of their administrative powers in the French Establishments by the Government of France to the Union of India, the Union Government extended the application of a number of Central enactments to these establishments by various legal procedures with a view to providing for proper administration. In the very year of

de facto session as many as forty-four central enactments were extended to the Establishments by the French Establishments (Application of Laws) Order, 1954 issued under the provisions of the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1947. They included—

The Banking Companies Act, 1949.

The Khadi and Other Handloom Industries Development (Additional Excise Duty on Cloth) Act, 1953.

The Tea Act, 1953.

The Indian Aircraft Act, 1934.

The Indian Post Offices Act, 1898.

The Indian Census Act, 1948.

The Indian Companies Act, 1913 and

The Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958.

After the adoption of the Constitution (Fourteenth Amendment) Act, 1962 which made these Establishments a component unit of the Indian Union and turned them into what is known as the Union Territory of Pondicherry, all enactments passed by Parliament automatically apply to this Territory, except where the legislature specifically provides for the exclusion of the Territory from the application of an enactment.

As Central enactments passed prior to the date of the *de jure* cession did not apply to Pondicherry, various methods were adopted to extend the application of such enactments to the Union Territory. By the adoption of the Pondicherry (Laws) Regulation, 1963, provision was made to bring into operation in Pondicherry 160 Central enactments by 1 October 1963.

This regulation covered many important pieces of legislation such as -

The Indian Penal Code, 1860.

The Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and

The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

It need not perhaps be mentioned that the extension of these enactments necessitated a reorganisation of the machinery established for the administration of criminal justice in the Territory.

Further under the provisions of the Pondicherry Administration Act, 1962, ten enactments were extended to the Union Territory between 1962 and 1967.

The enactments extended were -

- 1. The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939.
- 2. The Foreigners Act, 1946
- 3. The Citizenship Act, 1955
- 4. The Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952.
- 5. The Indians Soldiers (Litigation) Act, 1925.
- 6. The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.
- 7. The Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931.
- 8. The Expenditure Tax Act, 1957.
- 9. The Public Servants (Inquiries) Act, 1850.
- 10. The Criminal Law Amentment Act, 1932.

The Taxation Laws (Extension to Union Territories) Regulation, 1963 brought into force with certain modifications in the Union Territory seven Central Acts. Half a decade later, a Parliamentary enactment called the Pondicherry (Extension of Laws) Act, 1968 extended to the Territory ninety-six Central Acts. Enactments like the Advocates Act, 1961, the Civil Courts Amins Act, 1856, the Legal Representatives Suits Act, 1856, the Judicial Officers Protection Act, 1850, the Indian Oath Act, 1873, the Powers of Attorney Act, 1882, the Suits Valuation Act, 1887, the Provincial Small Cause Courts Act, 1887, the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act, 1921, the Commercial Documents Evidence Act, 1939, the Protection of Offenders Act, 1958 and the Court Fees Act, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Contract Act, the Transfer of Property Act among others, had a direct impact on judicial administration in the Territory.

As we have seen, as early as 1963, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 were extended to Pondicherry with the result that the administration of criminal justice had to adapt itself to the provisions of these newly extended enactments. The adoption of the Civil Courts Act, 1966, by the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory again brought about substantial changes in the judicial organisation of the Territory, bringing it in line with the set up in other parts of India, and especially in the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu.

In spite of the extension of a multitude of laws to the Union Territory with a view to bringing about uniformity with other parts of the Indian Union there is a veritable wilderness of laws in Pondicherry, especially in the area of personal laws. There appear to be several varieties of personal law applicable in the Union Territory, 167 apart from the French civil law applied to renonçants, who renounced their personal law in favour of the French civil law and whose rights to be governed by the French civil code were guaranteed by the Treaty of Cession as well as by certain modifications made in some of the Central enactments when they were extended to the Union Territory. Perhaps the only way open to do away with the wild medley of personal laws in the Union Territory is the adoption of a common civil code envisaged in one of the directive principles of state policy in the Constitution of India.

# Reorganisation of the judicial set up:

With the introduction of the Indian Penal Code and (the Indian) the Code of Criminal Procedure into Pondicherry from 1 October 1963 it became necessary to reconstitute the criminal court in the Territory. Consequently, a court of sessions and a few magistrates' courts were set up. The Union Territory was brought under one sessions division and the former Superior Tribunal of Appeal was constituted a court of sessions and the Président of the Tribunal was appointed Principal Sessions Judge, the two juges as Additional Sessions Judges and the Procureur de la République, as Public Prosecutor. The Président of the Tribunal was also designated head of the Judicial Department. 168

The Tribunals of First Instance at Pondicherry and Karaikal were turned into Assistant Sessions Judge's Courts with the Presidents of the Tribunals appointed Assistant Sessions Judges. The (Juge d'Instruction) Investigating Judge of the Territory at Pondicherry was appointed District Magistrate and the Assistant Judge (Juge-suppléant), a First Class Magistrate and the Procureur de la République, Public Prosecutor. The Assistant Judge at Karaikal who carried out in addition to his normal duties, the duties of the investigating judge and of the Justice of the Peace was made a First Class Magistrate and the Procureour de la République, Public Prosecutor. The Justice of Peace in Mahe and Yanam who presided over courts with extended jurisdiction (compétence étendue) were made First Class Magistrates.

As for the civil courts, a reconstitution of the civil judicial system took place when the Pondicherry Civil Courts Act, 1966 was brought into operation on 5 September 1968. According to section 6 of the Civil Courts Act, the Superior Tribunal of Appeal became a District Court, the Tribunals of First Instance at Pondicherry and Karaikal became subordinate judge's courts and the Courts of the Justice of the Peace were turned into Munsif's Courts. The President and the Judge of the Superior Tribunal of Appeal at Pondicherry were to function respectively as Principal District Judge and Additional District Judges. The Presidents of the Tribunals of First Instance at Pondicherry and Karaikal were to become subordinate judges and the Justices of the Peace and those who performed the duties of such Justice, were made Munsifs within their respective territorial jurisdiction. It was also provided that a District Judge sitting singly would exercise all the powers of the Superior Tribunal of Appeal in respect of all pending cases and cases remanded by the High Court in exercise of its powers as Court of Cassation.

Unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction was given to the District Court and the Subordinate Judge's Courts. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the Munsif's Courts was limited to Rs. 5,000 and the jurisdiction of the Subordinate Judge's Courts in small causes was fixed at Rs. 1,000 and that of the Munsif's Court at Rs. 500.

Under the provisions of the Civil Courts Act, the office of the Procureur de la République was abolished as also the Conseil du Contentieux Administratif-

Appeal from the decision of the District Judge would be to the High Court of Judicature at Madras. Apart from the District Court at Pondicherry there are three Subordinate Judge's Courts, one at Pondicherry, one each at Karaikal and Mahe, and three District Munsif's Courts one at Pondicherry and one each at Karaikal and Yanam.

Given below is a statement showing the institution, disposal and pendency of cases during the year 1972:

		Institution during 1972	Disposal during 1972	Pendency at the end o 1972
Civil Courts :				
District Courts		1,695	1,592	398
Sub-Court		4,357	4,029	2,018
Munsif Courts	ASS.	4,145	3,983	1,948
Criminal Courts:				
Sessions Courts		88	80	8
Magistrate Courts		9,788	9,305	483
Other Courts :				
State Transport Ap	pellate			
Tribunal	454	प्व ज्यान्2	23	43
	Total	20075	19012	4898

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- 3. F. N. Laude: Etudes sur les origines judiciaires dans les Etablissments français dans l'Inde, p. 9.

- 4. Diary, Vol. VI, p. 229.
- 5. Le Gentil: Voyage dans les mers de l'Inde, Tome I (1779), p. 634.
- 6. F. N. Laude: op. cit. pp. 10-11.
- 7. Arrêts du Conseil Supérieur de Pondichéry, Tome III, pp. 449 460.
- 8. Arrêts du Conseil Supérieur de Pondichéry, Tome V (1790-1794), pp. 128-176.
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- 10. De Freville: Une armée coloniale au XVIII ème siècle (Dupleix aux Indes) (1904), p. 24.
- 11. Henri de Closets D'Errey; Article entitled 'Brindilles d'histoire en faveur des Harijans' published in Le Semeur de l'Inde Française, No. 2 November 1937, p. 27.
- 12. Petignet: op. cit.
- 13. B. O. 1864, pp. 62-63 (Reprinted Ordonnance).
- 14. A. A. 1826, Ordonance of 21 August 1826, pp. 101-111.
- 15. A. A. 1827, Ordonnance of 26 May 1827, pp. 110-122.
- 16. A. A. 1827, Ordonnance of 20 October 1827, pp. 178-180.
- 17. B. O. 1844, arrêté of 6 February 1844, p. 65.
- 18. B. O. 1845, arrêté of 23 May 1845, p. 111.
- 19. B. O. 1856, arrêté of 6 August 1856, pp. 207-218.
- 20. B. O. 1856 arrêté of 6 September 1856, p. 226.
- 21. B. O. 1865, arrêté of 3 April 1865, pp. 116-119.
- 22. B. O. 1873, arrêté of 18 August 1873, pp. 414-416.
- 23. B. O. 1876, arrêté of 26 April 1876, pp. 245-265.
- 24. B.O. 1877, arrêté of 2 May, 1877, pp. 312-313.

- 25. B. O. 1884, arrêté of 21 January 1884, pp. 25-29.
- 26. B. O. 1889, arrêté of 1 March 1889, p. 189.
- 27. B. O. 1906, arrêté of 30 November 1906, p. 935.
- 28. B. O. 1907, arrêté of 3 April 1907, pp. 465-466.
- 29. B. O. 1907, another arrêté of 3 April 1907, p. 468.
- 30. B. O. 1907, arrêté of 7 April 1907, pp. 481-482.
- 31. A. A. 1826, ordonnance dt. 20 July 1826, pp. 47-50.
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- 33. B. O. 1807, arrêté of 19 March 1867, pp. 87-100.
- 34. Capitaine E. Martinet: L'Inde et les Hindous (1891), pp., 24-25.
- 35. B. O. 1907, arrêté of 15 May 1907, p. 559.
- 36. B. O. 1907, arrêté of 16 May 1907, p. 584.
- 37. B. O. 1907, arrêté of 13 June 1907, p. 692.
- 38. B. O. 1907, arrêté of 26 October 1907, p. 1044.
- 39. B. O. 1908, arrêté of 25 May 1908, pp. 376-386.
- 40. B. O. 1908, arrêté of 13 June 1908, pp. 427-434.
- 41. B. O. 1908, arrêtê of 16 July 1908, pp. 711-722.
- 42. B. O. 1910, arrêté oi 27 December 1910, pp. 981-985.
- 43. J. O. 1921, arrêté of 23 July 1921, pp. 410-423.
- 44. J. O. 1921, arrêté of 23 July 1921, pp. 410-423.
- 45. J. O. 1921, arrêté of 10 November 1921, pp. 679 681.
- 46. J. O. 1927, arrêté of 22 December 1927, p. 856.
- 47. J. O. 1931, arrêté of 20 January 1931, p. 50.
- 48. J. O. 1931, arrête of 10 April 1931, p. 35.
- 49. J. O. 1937, pp. 547-549

- 50. B. O. 1904, p. 361.
- 51. P. V. Conseil Général 1938, pp. 375-376, 1939, pp. 195-258.
- 52. J. O. 1939, p. 137.
- 53. J. O. 1941, arrêté of 18 April 1941, pp. 574-622.
- 54. P. V. Conseil Général 1941, p. 23.
- 55. A. R. 1963-64, p. 6.
- 56. Study Area Profile Pondicherry Region (1973), p. 38.
- 57. A. R. 1956-57, p. 8.
- 58. A. R. 1966-67, p. 8.
- 59. A. R. 1956–57, p. 7.
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- 62. A. R. 1958-59, p. 7.
- 63. B. O. 1941, pp. 578-581.
- 64. Dr. N. V. Rajkumar: The Problem of French India, p. 19.
- 65. A. R. 1956-57, p. 8.
- 66. A. R. 1960-61, p. 13.
- 67. A. R. 1961–62 p. 13.
- 68. A. R. 1964-65 p. 6.
- 69. A. R. 1963-64, p. 9.
- 70. A. R. 1965-66, p. 9.
- 71. J. O. 1938, p. 254.
- 72. J. O.1938, arrêté of 2 June 1938, p. 722.
- 73. J. O. 1932, arrêté of 27 November 1932, p. 1327

- 74. J. O. 1947, arrêté of 18 December 1947, p. 6.
- 75. B. O. 1910, arrêté of 28 October 1910, pp. 852-853.
- 76. New Times Observer, 28 October 1974, p. 3.
- 77. A. R. 1959-60, p. 13.
- 78. J. O. 1943, p. 372.
- 79. Governor's decision of 10 January 1933, arreté of 13 January 1934, p. 17.
- 80. Candau: Musique du Détachement des cipahis de l'Inde-Programme Annuel des concerts (1934).
- 81. A. A. 1827, pp. 249-250.
- 82. B. A. A. 1852, pp. 45-78.
- 83. B. O. 1867, pp. 45-78.
- 84. B. O. 1878, p. 410.
- 85. B. O. 1885, pp. 105-107.
- 86. B. O. 1889, pp. 114-115.
- 87. B. O. 1899, pp. 200-201.
- 88. B. O. 1899, pp. 310-328.
- 89. J. O. 1942, pp. 184-205.
- 90. B. O. 1866, pp. 362-364.
- 91. B. O. 1906, p. 430.
- 92. Gazette Extraordinary No. 112, dated 25 October 1971.
- 93. C. Minakshi: Administration and Social Life under the Pallavas (Madras, 1938), pp. 205-207.
- 94. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri: The Colas, Vol. II, Part I, p. 468. It is however not inconceivable that in a vidyasala of high repute, manavadharmasastra was taught as a pure academic discipline while the law in force in the Territory mainly derived from local custom. Not long ago Indian universities, following the example of universities in the United Kingdom, used to include Roman law in their syllabus for legal studies.



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- 95. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri: The Colas, Vol. II Part I, p. 261.
- 96. Idem, pp. 256-257.
- 97. T. V. Mahalingam, South Indian Polity, p. 201. Mahalingam thinks that the rulers probably demanded some specific contribution towards these expenses from the residents of the area where the temple was situated (Ibid).
- 98. Ibid, p. 201. An inscription of the same period gives us some ideas as what constituted gramadroha at least in the eyes of the sabha or Nalur, The sabha declared that those who acted against the interests of the village or of the temple and other institutions of the place were to be regarded as gramadrohis.
- 99. Chau Ju-Kua, p. 95 quoted in T. V. Mahalingam, South Indian Polity, p. 237.
- 100. An inscription from Anjaneri gives the usual rates of fines imposed for some offences. A fine of 108 rupikas was the punishment for outraging the modesty of a virgin, the same amount was to be paid if a merchant's son was found to have illicit connection with the women porter, should he be caught red handed; 32 rupikas was the fine for adultery, 16 for multilation of ear and 4 for bruising the head. (Epigraphia Indica XXV, p. 238, see Mahalingam, South Indian Polity. p. 239) There is at least one recorded instance of the imposition of a collective fine on a community for offences committed by members of the community. (Epigraphia Indica, XXII, p. 207, T. V. Mahalingam, South Indian Polity p 39.)
- 101. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri mentions, among others, death of a person resulting from an attempt at molesting someone else's concubine (The Colas, Vol. II Part I, p. 262).
- 102. 227 of 1904, cited by Sastri, op. cit. p. 263.
- 103. 64 of 1900 Sastri, op. cit., p. 263 and 200 of 1929, Sastri, op. cit. p. 264.
- 104. Taduttatkonda puranam, vv. 51-68.
- 105. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, The Colas, Vol. II, Part I, p. 257-258:

- 106. Epigraphia Indica, Vol. V. cited in Mahalingam, South Indian Polity p. 202.
- 107. Epigraphia Indica, V, p. 28 cited in T. V. Mahalingam, South Indian Polity, p. 202. Mahalingam citing the Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, X, p. 177, refers to an inscription to substantiate the point that if a person died without leaving sons, his daughters were entitled to succeed to his property.
- 108. T. V. Mahalingam: Administration and Social Life under Vijayanagar p. 108.
- 109. Idem, p. 112.
- 110. Idem, p. 114.
- 111. Idem, p. 109.
- 112. Idem, p. 112.
- 113. A record of 1577 at Srivilliputtur gives details of how a dispute regarding boundaries of lands belonging to two temples was settled by a committee appointed for the purpose. The procedure followed was stated as follows: "Before the day appointed for settlement orders to assemble were issued to the parties to the suit. They brought their accounts and gnapakam (memos). The allegation of both the parties were inquired into, the lands were inspected and final orders were passed (Id., p. 118).
- 114. T. V. Mahalingam: Administration and Social Life under Vijayanagar P. 121
- 115. T. V. Mahalingam gives instances of such trials: see id. pp. 121-122.
- 116. Ibid.
- 117. T. V. Mahalingam: op. cit. p. 105.
- 118. Idem, p. 105
- 119. One may recall in this connection St. Thomas Aquinas' definition of human law as "ordinance of reason for the common good, made by him who has care of the community and promulgated". It is probably feasible to argue, as was perhaps done by the two sects at Vridhachalam, that when a king's or his agents' commands are not intended for the common good but are clearly contrary to it, they do not deserve to be obeyed: a corellary to this argument could be that the authors of the commands which are subversive of the common good should be trated as traitors or nattudrohis.

- 120. See however, the opinion of the Advlsory Committee on Indian law which expressed the view that there was some rule of prescription under indigenous (customary) law, though it was not sure what exactly were the period of limitation or prescription in regard to various transactions. See preamble to the arrêté of 18 October 1838, issued by the Government of the French Indian establishments, B.O. 1838, p. 110.
- 121. T. V. Mahalingam: op. cit. p. 106.
- 122. See Sewell, A Forgotten Empire. pp. 380-381, quoted in Mahalingam, opcit. p. 123.
- 123. T. V. Mahalingam: op. cit. p. 125.
  - According to an inscription found in the former Pudukottai State three persons accused of killing twenty men were tried by the nattars of four villages. (Inscriptions of Pudukottai State 818 cited in Mahalingam, op. cit. p. 125.
- 124. See Major, *India in the Fifteenth Century*, pp. 31-32 quoted in Mahalingam, *Administration and Social Life*, op. cit., p. 122.
- 125. Mahalingam says that it is not clearly known if both parties were made to undergo the ordeal or the accuser or the accused person alone was subjected to it. (South Indian Polity, p. 223) But Ma Huan's account of a trial by ordeal which Mahalingam quotes refers only to such practices as "thrusting the finger of the accused into boiling oil" (Idem p. 224 fn. 71, emphasis added). See also the trial by ordeal of some Siva Brahmanas for theft of sacred ornament recorded in an inscription of the XIII century (Inscriptions of Pudukottai State 691, cited in Mahalingam, South Indian Polity, pp. 233-234). In a dispute of a civil nature to establish the right to the office of Senabova where a trial by ordeal took place, both parties were required to dip their hand in boiling ghee (Mysore Archaeological Report 1918, para 116, Mahalingam, op. cit. p. 225.).
- 126. T. V. Mahalingam, South Indian Polity, p. 213. One is reminded of the "conviction in time" required of the French magistrate before he passes sentence.

- 127. S. Varadachariar, Hindu Judicial System, p. 122, quoted by Mahalingam op. cit. p. 213.
- 128. T. V. Mahalingam: Administration and Social Life, op. cit. p. 126.
- 129. Inscriptions of the Pudukottai State, p. 867, quoted in Mahalingam, Administration and Social Life, op. cit. p. 127.
- 130. Sewell, op. cit. pp. 383-384, quoted in T. V. Mahalingam Administration and Social Life, op. cit. p. 126.
- 131. Amuktha, canto IV, V. 243, quoted in Mahalingam, Administration and Social Life op. cit. p. 127.
- 132. Epigraphia Carnatica, VII, ci. 69, mentioned in T. V. Mahalingam Administration and Social Life op. cit. p. 127.
- 133. T. V. Mahalingam, Administration and Social Life, op. cit. p. 128.
- 134. T. V. Mahalingam, Administration and Social Life, op. cit. p. 129.
- 135. S. P. Sen speaks of "the transfer of the conseil souverain from Surat to Pondicherry" in 1701 (S. P. Sen, the French in India, 1763-1816, p. 104). It would appear that with the establishment of a separate conseil souverain in Pondicherry by the edict of 1701, the jurisdiction of the Council of Surat was reduced in relation to the settlements in the southern coastal region. [See H de Closets d'Errey, Institutions religieuses et artisonales de l'Inde, son folklore (1940), p. 7.]
- 136. See F. N. Laude, Etudes sur les Origines judiciaires dans les Etablissements Français de l'Inde (1859), p. 4, see also Gnanou Diagou, Arrêts du Conseil Supérieur de Pondichéry, Vol. VIII Supplement, p. 6 also Diagou, op. cit. Vol. I Introduction, p. ix.
- 137. The Conseil Supérieur when sitting as a court was referred to as Conseil Souverain, See Dodwell's footnote in Anandarangapillai's Diary Vol. V. p. 146.
- 138. F. N. Laude, Etudes, supra note, p. 6.
- 139. F. N. Laude gives two instances of such refusal, See Etudes, supra note, p. 5.

- 140. Its name was derived from cavadi, a word found in Tamil as well as in some other languages of the South of India.
- 141. F. N. Laude, supra note, pp. 7-8.
- 142. Idem, p. 8.
- 143. Idem, p. 9.
- 144. Ibid.
- 145. Ibid. Laude says that he was not able to find the regulation which laid down these punishments: he only found them enumerated in the record of a speech (requisitoire) of the Procureur Général made on 25 October 1766.
- 146. Disputes between Europeans and Franco-Indians or between two persons belonging to either of these classes were to be adjudged exclusively by the Sovereign Council.
- 147. See the Regulation of 5 May 1805, G. Diagou, Arrêts du Conseil Supérieur, Vol. VI, p. 384.
- 148. See Idem pp. 385-386.
- 149. F. N. Laude, Etudes, supra note p. 40.
- 150. Regulation for the Bureau of the Police at Pondicherry, G. Diagou, Arrats, op. cit. p. 388.
- 151. Délit meant an offence punishable with a fine exceeding fifteen francs or imprisonment for over five days, but not exceeding five years.
- 152. There is a popular misunderstanding about this aspect of criminal procedure of the continental countries of Western Europe. For a detailed discussion of the presumption of innocence of the accused, see J. Minattur, "Innocence in the Dock" XXIV & XXV, Punjab University Law Review 46 (1972-1973) and "Criminal Procedure in France: Presumption of Innocence" XI Indian Advocate 13 (1971).
- 153. Subbash C. Jain: French Legal System in Pondicherry, pp. 586-589.

- 154. F. N. Laude, Etudes supra note p. 6.
- 155. F. N. Laude *Etudes* supra note p. 8. E. Gaudart: La Criminalite dans les Comptoirs français de l'Inde au XVIII ème Siècle (1937), p. xxv.
- 156. See Law of 25 Ventose, an XI, 3 (March 16 1803), An executory copy (grosse) is a literal copy with a declaration or certificate of the notary giving the instrument executory form.
- 157. L. Neville Brown "The Office of the Notary Public in France". International and Comparative Law Quarterly 60, 65 (1953).
- 158. F. N. Laude, Etudes, supra note p. 25.
- 159. See article 69 of the décret B. O. 1887, p. 461-476.
- E. Falgayrac : Législation de l'Inde lère partie, Organisation Judiciaire p. 185.
- 161. See the décret of 3 September 1953.
- 162. See the Pondicherry (Extension of Laws) Act, 1968, (No. 26 of 1968) the Schedule, Part I published in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 56, dated 22 June 1968.
- 163. Title II, article 16-Règlement du 30 December 1769. See E. Falgayrac : Legislation de l'Inde Tome II, p. 4.
- 164. Ibid Article 17, See also the Regulation of 27 January 1778.
- 165. Arrêt de Règlement of 1769, article 12. For quotation see F. N. Laude, Manuel du Droit Indou 1869 Édition, pp. 190-191.
- 166. Arrêt de Règlement of 1769, article 5, quoted by F. N. Laude, op. cit. p. 24.
- 167. "Pondicherry: Babel of Personal laws" by David Annoussamy in the Journal of the Indian Law Institute, pp. 420-423 (1972).
- 168. Joseph Minattur: Justice in Pondicherry, (1701-1968) p. 123.



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### CHAPTER—XIII

### OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Here it may be appropriate to present a brief account of the governmental machinery as it existed in Pondicherry just before merger. The Government was headed by a Haut-Commissaire de la République (Chief Commissioner) whose office was called Cabinet du Haut-Commissaire. He was assisted by a Secretaire Général, a position that is equivalent to that of the Chief Secretary. The Secretaire Général was responsible for the smooth functioning of the entire government machinery.

At the next level there were four **Bureaux** which attended to both administrative as well as executive functions. One special feature of the premerger set-up was that there was no distinction between Secretariat and Non-Secretariat functions. In fact all **Chefs des Bureaux**, including the Chief Secretary, were executive functionaries.

The chief among the branches of administration was the Bureau des Finances (Office in-charge of Finance), otherwise known as Premier Bureau du Gouvernement (First Office) emphasising as it were, its primacy in the whole administrative set up. Headed by a Chef du Bureau des Finances, it was responsible for the preparation of budgets and exercised control over expenditure. At one time it was the responsibility of the Governor to watch the progress of expenditure under the various heads of accounts. It was he who ordered all expenditures and on this account was called Ordonnateur. In course of time these functions came to be vested in the Bureau des Finances which, as a result, came to be called Ordonnateur Délégué. The Imprimerie (Government Press) headed by a Gérant was under the control of this Bureau.

The Bureau des Affaires Politiques (Office in-charge of Political Affairs) otherwise known as the Deuxième Bureau (Second Office) dealt with political issues, arranged for the conduct of elections, poor relief and exercised control over civic bodies, temples, mutts, choultries and endowments. The Bureau des Affaires Economiques (Office in-charge of Economic Affairs) called otherwise as

Troisième Bureau (Third Office) dealt with all economic problems and was also concerned with activities comparable to those of the present Directorate of Civil Supplies. The Bureau also attended to some minor problems connected with agriculture. The control over Jardin Botanique remained with Service de Travaux Publics (Public Works) at the time of merger. Each of these three Bureaux was headed by a Chef du Bureau who belonged to the French Administrative Cadre. There was also the Bureau Militaire du Gouvernement which was responsible for all security problems. The police forces, known as 'Forces publiques', under a Commandant was responsible for the maintenance of law and order, jails (Etablissements pénitentiaires), prevention and detection of crimes and offences.

Besides these four Bureaux there were several other Services or Bureaux which were saddled with executive functions. The most important of them was Service des Contributions headed by a Chef du Service who dealt with the assessment of direct and indirect taxes in the territory. Bureau de l'Enregistrement functioned as the Registration Office and Stamp Office. The Bureau des Hypothèques functioned as the custodian of public deeds executed before notaries. The function now forms part of the responsibility of the Office of the District Registrar. The Bureau de Cadastre was in-charge of land survey and settlement operations. The Mont-de piété advanced loans on the pledge of jewels. All these offices had their branches in the other regions. The Distillerie (distillery) which functioned under the direction of a Gérant was a commercial undertaking under the control of Service des Contributions.

The Service du Trésor headed by the Trésorier-Payeur was in charge of the treasuries. This office was not subject to the supervision of either the Governor or Chef du Bureau de Finances but functioned under the direct control of the Ministry in France. The statements of payments and accounts compiled by the Trésorier-Payeur were audited by none other than the Cour de Comptes in France, a body similar to the Auditor General's Office in India. The Trésorier-Payeur was represented in the other regions by Préposés du Trésor.

The Service de l'Instruction Publique was concerned with public instruction. This Bureau was headed by a Chef du Bureau de l'Instruction Publique who was represented in the outlying regions by his délégués (delegates). The Public Library in Pondicherry and the Archives attached to it was also under the administrative control of this Bureau, but under the direct management of a Conservateur de la Bibliothèque et des Archives.

The Service des Travaux Publics (Public Works), headed by a Chef, was in charge of construction and maintenance of government buildings, roads and bridges, irrigation, water supply to mention only a few. The port and the Régie de l'Electricité were also under its overall control.

The Service de Santé (Health Services) was responsible for medical services and public health. It was also in charge of the 'Pharmacie' which was responsible for the procurement, supply and distribution of drugs to hospitals as well as to the general public.

The Bureau de l'Inspection du Travail (Inspectorate of Labour) headed by an Inspecteur du Travail was responsible for dealing with the labour problems. The Bureau de l'Information was primarily concerned with the collection and maintenance of statistics and information and exercised control over the functioning of printing presses in the Territory.

The Service Judiciaire functioning under the control of the Procureur de la République dealt with all aspects of judicial administration. There were however, two wings viz. the Tribunaux Judiciaires (Judicial Tribunals) dealing with criminal and civil disputes and the Tribunal Administratif (Administrative Tribunal) dealing with cases in which the administration was involved. This more or less sums up the whole gamut of the administration as it existed before merger.

सन्प्रापन जायन

The Departmental set-up as it emerged after merger at the Secretariat level has already been explained in Chapter X while dealing with General Administration. The number of Departments as well as the subjects to be dealt with by the various Departments are determined by the Rules of Business of the Government of Pondicherry (Allocation) Rules, 1963 and its schedule and by the amendments subsequently issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. In May 1967, the Government of India, amended the above schedule, limiting the number of Departments to twelve. These twelve Departments were allotted to the six Secretaries including the Chief Secretary to the Government.\*

<sup>\*</sup> The demarcation of Departments as brought into effect in May 1967 does not hold good now as the Departments allotted to the Secretaries as well as the subjects allocated to the various Departments have been shuffled so often since then.

The executive functions of the Government are performed through Directorates or offices dealing with specified fields of public activity. The organisational set-up of the following Directorates/Offices has been dealt with in the chapters shown against each:

1.	Directorate of Transport	• •	••	Chapter	VII
2.	Port Office	• •		,,	VII
3.	Project Office/Block Development O	ffice	٠.	**	IX
4.	Directorate of Pilot Research, Plann and Evaluation	ing 		**	ix
5.	Office of the District Registrar	•		1,	XI
6.	Inspectorate General of Police			,,	XII
7.	Office of the Chief Superintendent				
	of Jails	• •	• •	**	XII
8.	Directorate of Rural Development			*>	XIV
9.	Town and Country Planning Office			17	XIV
10.	Directorate of Education			,,	XV
11.	Directorate of Health & Family				
	Planning Services			,,	XVI

Brief accounts of the remaining Directorates, Offices, etc. are furnished below:

#### Office of the Council of Ministers :

The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 which came into force on 1 July 1963 converted the erstwhile Representative Assembly into a Legislative Assembly and empowered it to make laws on matters enumerated in the State List and the Concurrent List, subject to certain limitations. The same day a six-member Council of Ministers was constituted and the Council of Government was duly abolished. Hence the Office of the Council of Ministers may be assumed to have started functioning the same day. In 1968 the Office of the Council of Ministers moved to the premises of the Legislative Assembly in rue Victor Simonel.

The Office of the Council of Ministers is only the administrative outfit meant for drawing the pay and allowances for the ministerial staff including the personal staff of the ministers and it has nothing to do with the affairs of the Council of Ministers, i.e. the Cabinet. The Private Secretary to the Chief Minister is the Head of Office as well as the Drawing and Disbursing Officer. All ministers are provided with ministerial and security staff. But whenever the Territory is brought under President's rule, staff strength is reduced to the extent necessary to attend to routine work. This office is under the administrative control of the Confidential and Cabinet Department which normally stands allotted to the Chief Secretary.

सन्यापन जयन

### Vigilance Office:

The Chief Secretary to the Government is the Chief Vigilance Officer for the entire Union Territory and the Secretaries to the Government are Vigilance Officers for the Departments under their respective control. In pursuance of the recommendations made by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption, a Vigilance Committee was constituted in the year 1964. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Chief Minister are respectively the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee. The Chief Secretary in his capacity as Chief Vigilance Officer functions as its Secretary. All Secretaries to Government, the Inspector General of Police, Pondicherry and the Superintendent of Police, Special Police Establishment, Central Bureau of Investigation, Madras are its members. At the Secretariat level, vigilance work is attended to by a Superintendent (Grade I) in the Chief Vigilance Office and papers are submitted to the Chief Vigilance Officer through the Deputy Secretary (General Administration). The Revised Vigilance scheme introduced in 1967, continues to operate.

On 1 October 1964 a complaint box was fixed at the Chief Secretariat to enable the public to lodge their complaints. The Toshakhana Rules were framed in June 1967 for the proper disposal of gifts and presents given to Ministers and Government servants on ceremonial occasions and formal functions. These continue to operate.

On the executive side, cases of bribery and corruption against Gazetted as well as Non-Gazetted government servants are investigated by men attached to the Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Police Unit, Pondicherry. This Unit was formed in July 1965. Headed by a Superintendent of Police (drawn on deputation from outside the Territory) this Unit consists of one Inspector of Police, one Sub-Inspector, two Head Constables and five Constables. In June 1966, it was declared as a police station and the officials were vested with necessary police powers. This Unit functions under the direct control of the Chief Vigilance Officer.

#### Election Office:

With the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 extending to this Union Territory the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 the election machinery in Pondicherry came under the control of the Election Commission of India.

The Chief Electoral Officer\* who is under the direct control of the Election Commission is responsible for the conduct of elections in the Territory. The Election Commission which appoints the Chief Electoral Officer in consultation with the Administration, carries out its statutory duties through him. The Chief Electoral Officer exercises supervisory powers as have been delegated to him under sub-section (2) of section 13 A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 over the preparation and revision of electoral rolls and under Section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, over the conduct of elections. He is assisted by an Assistant Chief Electoral Officer in carrying out his functions. He is also the Appellate Authority under Rule 23 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

<sup>\*</sup> The Secretary to the Government (Law and Labour) officiates as Chief Electoral Officer.

The Assistant Chief Electoral Officer is the Head of Office and also the Drawing and Disbursing Officer in respect of the staff of the Election Office. He is also conferred with ex-officio secretariat status which enables him to deal directly with the secretariat. The Election Office functions with a full complement of staff only during elections and a skeleton staff at other times. The staff required for polling and counting duty is drafted from the various Departments and Offices.

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The enumeration work and the revision of electoral rolls is attended to by teachers and Headmasters under the guidance and supervision of Electoral Registration Officers. For such purposes the whole Territory is divided into six sectors and each placed under an Electoral Registration Officer appointed by the Election Commission.

Even for purposes of holding elections, the Territory is divided into six sectors, each covering one to seven constituencies. Each sector is placed under the control of a Returning Officer who is assisted by one or more Assistant Returning Officers, also appointed by the Election Commission under Sections 21 and 22 (1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The polling date is fixed by the Election Commission in consultation with the local Government.

Contingents of armed police are drafted from the neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, etc. for bandobust. To assist the Returning Officers in the counting of votes, Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants are drafted from among Government servants.

While expenditure on most of the items is shared equally between the Administration and the Central Government, on some items it is borne entirely either by the Central Government or the Union Territory Administration.

In all cases where the expenditure is shared or when the expenditure is solely borne by the Central Government, the expenditure is initially incurred by the Administration and claimed subsequently.

The Election Office is under the administrative control of the Law Department.

### Directorate of Agriculture:

Till de facto merger all problems connected with agriculture were looked after by Bureau des Affaires Economiques. The Directorate of Agriculture, as it is called today, was formed in 1955 to carry on the functions till then attended to by Service de l'Agriculture\* and more especially to take up the responsibility of implementing the plan schemes. The Directorate now functions under the administrative control of the Development Department.

The Director is the chief executive officer responsible for the formulation and execution of all agricultural programmes in the Territory. Since its inception in 1955, the Directorate has vastly expanded to perform a wide variety of functions touching upon agricultural planning, development, education, training, research, publicity, etc. The enforcement of the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Seeds Act, 1966, the Fertiliser Control Order, 1957, etc. also form part of its responsibility.

At the Directorate level the Director is assisted by a Deputy Director and the Accounts Officer. The Deputy Director of Agriculture is the Head of Office and also the Drawing and Disbursing Officer and looks after all matters connected with establishment. The Accounts Officer deals with such matters as accounts, budget, internal audit, agricultural loans, etc.

Subject Matter Specialists: There are besides, seven Subject Matter Specialists, four of whom are connected with the Scheme for Coordinated National Demonstration and three connected with the Pilot Project on Multiple Cropping. The first four deal with all problems relating to agronomy, soil science, plant protection and agricultural engineering/water management. Of the other three Subject Matter Specialists, one is concerned with the implementation of the Pilot Project on Multiple Cropping and the remaining two deal with problems relating to agricultural economics/adoptive research and extension/information. They also assist the Director in dealing with problems connected with their field of specialisation.

Project Agricultural Office, Pondicherry: This office, headed by a Project Agricultural Officer, is one of the subordinate offices of the Directorate. The agricultural extension work in respect of the Vegetable Development Scheme, Cotton Development Scheme, Plant Protection Scheme, Seed Multiplication and

<sup>\*</sup> Service de l'Agriculture was one of the branches of Bureau des Affaires Economiques.

Distribution Scheme, Crop and Fertiliser Demonstration Scheme, Development of Organic and Manurial Resources Scheme, Coconut Development Scheme, Pulses Development Scheme and the High Yielding Variety Programme, etc., is carried on with the help of four Agricultural Extension Officers, a Vegetable-Development Assistant, a Plant Protection Assistant and a Cotton Development Assistant.

The State Seed Farm at Madagadippattu which is placed under the supervision of the Project Agricultural Office, functions under the direct management of the Farm Manager and the Orchard attached to the farm is managed by a Horticultural Research Assistant. All the four Agricultural Depots in Pondicherry region are also under his control.

Project Agricultural Office, Karaikal: This is another subordinate office, headed by a Project Agricultural Officer with headquarters in Karaikal. Its functions are similar to those of the P.A.O., Pondicherry but with its jurisdiction limited to Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. He is assisted by one Agricultural Extension Officer and four Agricultural Demonstrators in looking after the regular agricultural activities. In order to implement the Plant Protection Scheme, the Horticulture Development Scheme and the Pulses Development Scheme he is assisted by a Plant Protection Assistant, a Horticulture Development Assistant and a Pulses Development Assistant,

The State Seed Farm and the Vocational Agricultural Training School at Mathur and the Coconut Nursery at Yanam are under his supervisory control. The management of the Mathur Farm and the functioning of the Vocational Agricultural Training School are respectively the immediate responsibility of the Farm Manager and the Agricultural Instructor.

Marketing Office: The Marketing Office is under the control of the Marketing Officer who is its Head of Office as well as Drawing and Disbursing Officer. He is primarily responsibile for dealing with all matters connected with marketing of agricultural products in the Territory. He carries out market surveys for important crops, draws up plans for marketing without harming the interests of both the producer and the consumer. He is expected to supervise and review the working of the regulated market and enforce strict quality control over Agmark products. He is responsible also for the collection and dissemination of market intelligence and for undertaking market extension work and research.

The Seed Testing Laboratory and the Oil and Ghee Grading Laboratory are under the direct control of the Marketing Officer. Samples of oil and ghee drawn from the dealers and manufacturers are analysed in the laboratory to verify their purity and Agmark grading.

Office of the Assistant Agricultural Engineer, Pondicherry: This is also one of the subordinate offices of the Directorate. The agricultural engineering works in respect of the Soil Conservation Scheme, the Land Reclamation Scheme and the Borewell Scheme are attended to by the Assistant Agricultural Engineer with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Assistants and the Agricultural Engineering Supervisors.

Agricultural Training Office: This office is under the control of the Agricultural Training Officer, who is its Head of Office as well as Drawing and Disbursing Officer. He is responsible for organising various agricultural training programmes with the assistance of the Radio Contact Officer, Agricultural Training Instructors and the Mukya Sevika. Institutional training in the form of specialised short term courses are also arranged. Demonstration camps and discussion groups are also organised under this scheme. Farm publicity on new techniques of agriculture is arranged through the radio and with the help of field staff. For a brief account on the Vocational Agricultural Training School and the Agricultural Polytechnic (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) see Chapter XV.

Sugar-cane Development Office: This office is under the control of the Sugar-cane Development Officer who is its Head of Office as well as Drawing and Disbursing Officer. He is responsible for the implementation of the Comprehensive Scheme for the Development of Sugar-cane and the Area Development Scheme for Sugar-cane. The implementation of the Groundnut Development Scheme is also his concern. He is assisted by the Sugar-cane Development Assistants and one Special Agricultural Demonstrator for Groundnut. The Sugar-cane Farm at Kariyamanikkam is also under his control.

Ground Water Unit: The Unit, formed in 1972, functions under the immediate control of an Assistant Engineer who is the Head of Office and Drawing and Disbursing Officer for the staff working in the Unit. It is responsible for carrying out studies on ground water potentialities and for the exploitation of ground water resources in the Territory. He is assisted by an Assistant Geologist in the implementation of the programme.

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Laboratories: The Directorate maintains the following laboratories in the Territory:

- 1. The Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Pondicherry.
- 2. The Soil and Water Testing Laboratory, Pondicherry.
- 3. The Fertiliser Quality Control Laboratory, Pondicherry.
- 4. The Seed Testing Laboratory, Pondicherry.
- 5. The Oil and Ghee Grading Laboratory, Pondicherry.
- 6. The Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory, Karaikal.

The Soil and Water Testing Laboratory and the Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Pondicherry are under the immediate control of an Assistant Soil Chemist, who is assisted by three Analytical Assistants and a Sample Fertiliser Trials Supervisor. Samples of soil and water received from the field staff as well as farmers for analysis are tested here and appropriate manurial and reclamation measures recommended. Fertiliser samples collected from dealers for analysis and verification of components are tested in the Fertiliser Quality Control Laboratory. Samples of pesticides drawn from dealers and manufacturers are analysed in the Pesticide Testing Laboratory to verify their content.

The Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory which operates in Karaikal region is under the control of an Assistant Soil Chemist stationed at Karaikal. He is assisted in carrying out his functions by three Analytical Assistants.

Workshops: The Government Automobile Workshop and the Agricultural Engineering Workshop are under the immediate control of the Workshop Superintendent. Repair and maintenance of all government vehicles are carried out at the Government Automobile Workshop. Repair and maintenance of all agricultural machinery like tractors, bull-dozers, sprayers, etc. are attended to at the Agricultural Engineering Workshop. The Workshop Superintendent is assisted by a Junior Engineer in running the Automobile Workshop and by an Agricultural Engineering Supervisor in running the Agricultural Engineering Workshop.

The Automobile Workshop has been declared as a commercial undertaking and accordingly proforma accounts are maintained. A Service Station and a Fuel Depot are also attached to the Automobile Workshop.

The Botanical Garden, Pondicherry: The Botanical Garden is placed under the control of the Marketing Officer, who looks after its maintenance and improvement with the help of a Garden Superintendent and a Horticultural Assistant.

#### Directorate of Fisheries:

The Directorate of Fisheries headed by a Director was formed in November 1955 with headquarters in Pondicherry to deal with all matters connected with fish and fisheries. Since its inception, the Directorate had seen considerable expansion to cope with the growing responsibilities. The Directorate is under the administrative control of the Development Department.

The Director is the chief executive of the Directorate and is responsible for the formulation and execution of all schemes and for the enforcement of fishery laws in the Territory. He is also empowered to sanction loans to fishermen co-operative societies and to deal with arbitration cases pertaining to fishermen co-operative societies in his capacity as Additional Registrar of Fishermen Co-operative Societies without reference to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. He carries out his functions in the co-operative sphere with the assistance of one Co-operative Sub-Registrar and three Senior Inspectors (two at Pondicherry and one at Karaikal). He is also the leasing authority for chank fishery rights in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. The annual inspection of all branch offices in the regional headquarters is also carried out by him.

The Director is assisted by a Deputy Director stationed at headquarters to deal with all matters connected with administration, planning, establishment, publicity and statistics. The Directorate was further strengthened with the appointment of another Deputy Director in August 1972. The new Deputy Director was placed in-charge of the Inshore Fishing Survey Station. He is assisted by an Inspector of Fisheries.

The Deputy Directors are assisted by a team of nine Inspectors of Fisheries of whom four are placed in-charge of four zones, and the remaining five in-charge of Inland Fisheries, Co-operation, Planning, Stores and the Inshore Fishing Survey Station. The Inspectors are in turn assisted by five Sub-Inspectors of Fisheries, three Fishery Overseers, five Fieldmen, besides Drivers and Van Cleaners.

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The Regional Offices at Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam are under the direct supervision of Regional Inspectors of Fisheries who are responsible for implementing all development schemes in the respective regions. In Karaikal one Sub-Inspector of Fisheries is attached to the regional office and another Sub-Inspector of Fisheries is attached to the Estuarine Fish Seed Farm together with one Boat Fishery Overseer, one Marine Foreman, two Fitters, one Senior Inspector of Co-operative Societies, two Van Drivers, three Fieldmen and two Cleaners. The Mahe Regional Office is under the control of an Inspector of Fisheries who is assisted by a Marine Foreman, a Fitter, a Sub-Inspector of Fisheries and one Boat Fishery Overseer. The Regional Office at Yanam is the control of Inspector an of Fisheries who is assisted of bv one Sub-Inspector Fisheries. one Boat Fisherv Overseer and two Fieldmen. The Regional Inspector of Fisheries, Karaikal has been declared as Drawing Officer for the staff working in the regional offices at Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. He is also the Disbursing Officer for the staff in Karaikal, whereas the Inspectors of Fisheries in Mahe and Yanam are Disbursing Officers for the staff in the respective regions.

The Sub-Inspectors of Fisheries (Extension) attached to the Villiyanur and Karaikal Blocks attend to all extension work and see to the implementation of the Applied Nutrition Programme as well as the Fishermen Housing Scheme. As for Mahe and Yanam, necessary assistance is extended to the Block Development Offices by the respective Regional Inspectors of Fisheries.

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Ice-Plant-cum-Cold Storage Units: The Ice Plant-cum-Cold Storage Unit at Pondicherry is under the control of the Deputy Director (Headquarters) and placed under the supervision of the Refrigeration Supervisor who is assisted by two Refrigeration Operators and two Icemen. The Ice Plant-cum-Cold Storage Unit at Karaikal, placed under the control of the Regional Inspector of Fisheries at Karaikal, is manned by one Refrigeration Supervisor with the assistance of two Refrigeration Operators and two Icemen.

Service-cum-Maintenance Units: The Directorate runs three Service-cum-Maintenance Units one each at Pondicherry, Karaikal and Mahe to attend to overhauling and minor repairs of mechanised boats and to ensure the supply of spares to boat owners in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Mahe regions. The Units are under the direct management of Marine Foremen of the concerned Units.

The Pondicherry Aquarium: The Aquarium, which forms part of the Jawahar Bal Bhavan (Pondicherry), is under the technical control of the Directorate of Fisheries. It is looked after by a Sub-Inspector of Fisheries (Aquarium) who is assisted by one Fishery Overseer and one Laboratory Attendant.

### Directorate of Animal Husbandry:

Prior to merger a nucleus staff headed by a Veterinary Surgeon, otherwise called 'Vétérinaire' was attached to 'Service de Santé' (Health Service) to deal with all veterinary problems. Soon after merger the Vétérinaire was declared as Veterinary Officer who continued to be in-charge of the Veterinary Unit. The unit was converted into a Directorate in 1955. Since then the Directorate has expanded gradually to cope with the growing plan activities.

The Director is the chief executive officer of the Directorate which functions under the administrative control of the Development Department. At the Directorate level he is assisted by a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon who has been declared as Drawing and Disbursing Officer in respect of the staff of the Directorate as well as those of the Veterinary Hospital, Dispensaries, the Poultry Farm and the Clinical Laboratory in Pondicherry region. All establishment matters are dealt with by the Director himself with the assistance of ministerial staff headed by a Superintendent (Grade II).

On the veterinary side, the Director exercises control over the Veterinary Hospital, Dispensaries, Mobile Dispensaries, Clinical Laboratories and State Poultry Farms each of which is in turn headed by a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. The Director is also in-charge of the Cattle Development Schemes and in this branch he is assisted by the Cattle Development Officer who is in-charge of the Frozen Semen Bank. One Publicity Unit is also functioning under the charge of the Director.

Pondicherry and Karaikal regions have one Key Village Centre each. The Pondicherry Key Village Centre comprises two Key Village Blocks, each of which is under the control of one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. The Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in-charge of the Pondicherry Key Village Block I functions as Drawing and Disbursing Officer in respect of the staff of Blocks I & II in Pondicherry region.

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Similarly the Karaikal Key Village Centre is made up of one block which is under the control of a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. He is the Drawing and Disbursing Officer in respect of all the staff working in Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions.

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#### Directorate of Public Works:

Known as Service des Travaux Publics before merger, it dealt with all matters connected with public works such as construction and maintenance of building, roads, bridges, irrigation works and attended to problems of such diverse nature as water works, drainage, floods, registration and licensing of vehicles, railways, meteorology and archaeology. Following de facto merger however, the service came to deal with all major and minor works relating to construction of buildings, irrigation, roads, drainage and water supply. The Director of Public Works is the Chief Executive Officer of the Department. Since November 1954, the post of Director was filled up by an officer of the rank of Executive Engineer drawn on deputation from a neighbouring State. With effect from 1 July 1963, the post of Director was upgraded to that of Superintending Engineer (CPWD) and C. P. W. D. Officers of the grade were drafted for the post. Since 1 August 1972, the post is held by an officer of the Pondicherry Administration. With a view to speeding up work, the single file system was introduced in November 1969 and the Director (P.W.) was conferred (ex-officio) Secretariat status and since then a Secretariat Wing started functioning from the Directorate.

The Directorate is assisted on the administrative side by a Deputy Director who has been declared as Head of Office for the Directorate only. He deals with all establishment matters besides attending to the preparation of budget, annual plans, Five Year Plan, etc.

सन्यमव जयन

The executive functions of the Directorate were distributed among Divisions which were charged with specific responsibilities. While Divisions II, III, IV were located in Pondicherry, Division I functioned with headquarters at Karaikal. The Executive Engineers in-charge of the Divisions were conferred with cheque drawing powers since 1 September 1968 so as to facilitate quick payment of bills.

Division 1: This Division with headquarters at Karaikal was formed in April 1969 with its jurisdiction extending to Mahe and Yanam regions. Prior to this date, two Sub-Divisions attached to one of the three Divisions in

Pondicherry operated in Karaikal region. With the formation of a separate Division for Karaikal, the number of Sub-Divisions increased to four. Later, with a view to modernising the river irrigation system in Karaikal, the Division was further expanded with two additional Sub-Divisions (Investigation), each consisting of one Assistant Engineer, four Junior Engineers and other technical staff. The Division comprised seven Sub-Divisions, five operating in Karaikal and one each operating at Mahe and Yanam. Of the five Sub-Divisions operating in Karaikal two were in-charge of 'Investigation', the third in-charge of 'Irrigation' and the fourth in-charge of Roads, Water Supply, etc. and the fifth in-charge of the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme for Karaikal urban areas.

Division II: This Division headed by the Joint Director-cum- Executive Engineer, comprised seven sub-divisions, each under the care of an Assistant Engineer placed in-charge of Construction I, Construction II, Construction III, Construction IV, Police Housing Scheme, Drainage, and Rural and Urban Water Supply. The Assistant Engineers were assisted by Junior Engineers, technical staff like maistries, mechanics, etc.

Division III: The Executive Engineer in-charge of this Division exercised control over six Sub-Divisions viz. Maintenance I and II, Roads, Roads (Investigation), Irrigation and Municipal Works, each under an Assistant Engineer.

Division IV: This was otherwise known as Irrigation and Flood Control Division. It was set up in March 1973 with a view to planning, investigating and executing major irrigation, flood control and soil conservation works. Prior to this the irrigation and flood control work was carried out in Pondicherry by Division III and in Karaikal by Division I. This Division consisted of four Sub-Divisions.

The Design Wing: With a view to reorganising the Directorate on the pattern of the C.P.W.D., a Design Wing was set up in the Directorate in 1969. The wing was headed by a Surveyor of Works who was assisted by three Assistant Surveyors of Works, an Architect, eight Junior Engineers and other technical staff like Draughtsmen, Tracer, etc. This wing was responsible for the preparation of plans, designs and estimates of major schemes, viz. those costing more than Rs. one lakh and for conducting the scrutiny of project estimates received from the Executive Divisions, Housing Board, Municipalities, PIPDIC and other Semi-Government agencies.

Stores: There was one Central Stores in Pondicherry where all items other than bitumen were stored. It was under the control of Division II and was looked after by an Assistant Engineer who procured all the stores and issued the materials required by the Public Works Department as well as other Departments. The stock of bitumen in Pondicherry was stored by Division III which looked after the 'Roads'. Division I in Karaikal maintained its own stores in Karaikal with branches in Mahe and Yanam. Inspection of stores was conducted once a year. The stores were also subjected to surprise inspections by the P.A.O. The Director (P.W.) was also the Direct Demanding Authority for D.G.S. & D. rate contract items required by all Departments of this Administration.

Inspection: The Director carried out the inspection of the Divisions once in a year. The Sub-Divisions were inspected by the Executive Engineers with the assistance of the Divisional Accountant, once in a year. The Director and the Executive Engineers inspected all major works while the Executive Engineers checked up measurements of works as laid down in the codes. In all matters of administration, execution of work, etc. the C.P.W.D. rules, regulations and Manual were followed. The procedure for the registration of contractors was last revised in September 1970.

Work Advisory Board: The Lieutenant-Governor is the Chairman of the Works Advisory Board which alone is empowered to accept tenders exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs in value. The Board was last reconstituted in 1969. The Executive Engineers are empowered to issue technical sanction for schemes estimated to cost upto Rs. one lakh. Schemes costing more than Rs. 10 lakhs are to be technically sanctioned by the Chief Engineer (C.P.W.D.), whereas schemes costing more than Rs. one lakh and less than Rs. 10 lakhs are technically sanctioned by the Director (P.W.).

#### Directorate of Industries:

The Directorate of Industries is headed by a Director. He is assisted by three Assistant Directors designated as Assistant Director (Administration), Assistant Director (Technical) and Assistant Director (Rural Industries Project). The Assistant Director (Administration) deals with all matters connected with the Industrial Estate, Tattanchavadi and the Rural Industrial Estates at Manappattu and Kottuchcheri and also the Service-cum-Common Facility Workshops at Villiyanur, Manapattu and Kottuchcheri. He also deals with all matters pertaining to office establishment, accounts, budget as well as preparation of plans. He is also responsible for the implementation of the Unemployed Engineers Scheme.

The Assistant Director (Technical) attends to the registration and development of small scale industries, power looms, allotment of raw materials like iron and steel, distribution of yarn, processing of Actual Users Import Applications, loan applications, etc. He also deals with the Ten per cent and Fifteen per cent. Investment Subsidy Scheme (Central Subsidy Scheme), the Power Subsidy Scheme and arranges for the payment of subsidy towards interest on loans granted under the State Aid to Industries Act.

Following the establishment of an Industrial Estate at Tattanchavadi in Pondicherry, an Administrative Officer (Industrial Estate) was appointed to look after the administration of the industrial estate. The execution of lease deeds with the allottees of sheds and development plots and the collection of rent, water charges, sponsoring of their import licence applications for machinery, raw materials, etc. form part of his responsibility.

With the extension of the Rural Industries Project to this Territory, a Planning-cum-Survey Officer was appointed under a Centrally Sponsored scheme. In May 1975, the post was redesignated as Assistant Director (Rural Industries Project). He carries out surveys to assess the scope for development of small scale industries in the Territory. He has also carried out studies on the demand pattern of industrial products and the existing industrial infrastructure in order to determine the scope for expanding the capacity of existing units for starting new units particularly in rural areas. The Assistant Director (Rural Industries Project) is assisted by one Economic Investigator and four Supervisors. Some members of his team underwent special training at the SIET Institute, Hyderabad.

The Service-cum-Common Facility Workshops at Villiyanur and Manappattu in Pondicherry region and at Kottuchcheri in Karaikal region are meant to serve village artisans and agriculturists. Both the workshops in Pondicherry region are under the direction of Workshop Superintendents. The one at Kottuchcheri is under the supervision of the Supervisor, Rural Industrial Estate, Kottuchcheri.

The services of an Extension Officer are placed at the disposal of the Villiyanur block by the Directorate. The services of another Extension Officer (in the grade of Supervisor) are placed at the disposal of the Karaikal Block to look after the units located outside the Rural Industrial Estate at Kottuchcheri

Branch Offices have recently been established in Mahe and Yanam regions. These offices are manned by a Supervisor of Industries each functioning under the control of the Administrator of the region concerned. At the same time, the Branch Office at Karaikal which was until recently manned by a Supervisor of Industries came to be headed by an Assistant Director of Industries.

Under the Pondicherry State Aid to Industries Act, 1970 and the rules framed thereunder, the Director of Industries was declared as the competent authority to sanction loans upto Rs. 5,000 to small scale industries. Beyond Rs. 5,000 but below Rs. 10,000 the concerned Secretary to the Government was the sanctioning authority. The power to sanction loans exceeding Rs. 10,000 was vested with a seven-member Board constituted under the provisions of the State-Aid to Industries Act, 1970, 3

## Office of the Superintending Engineer (Electricity):

The Directorate of Electricity headed by a Director, became the Office of the Superintending Engineer following the appointment of a Superintending Engineer in March 1976 to head the set-up. The post of Director was redesignated as Executive Engineer. The Superintending Engineer in his capacity as the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the formulation and execution of plan schemes, the execution, operation, maintenance and inspection of the electricity networks and the purchase and distribution of power in accordance with the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and the Rules made thereunder. He is also responsible for the proper enforcement of the provisions of the said Acts and Rules.

The Superintending Engineer is assisted by two Accounts Officers, one to deal with all matters connected with 'Revenue' and the other with 'Expenditure'. The Accounts Officer (Expenditure) who is the Head of Office as well as the Drawing and Disbursing Officer for the entire office, also deals with all matters relating to establishment and budget. On the technical side, the Superintending Engineer is assisted by an Executive Engineer and several Assistant Engineers who carry on the duties assigned to them with the help of Junior Engineers and Section Officers and operational staff. Each of the Assistant Engineers is assigned some specific as well as general functions. The general functions relate to the management of personnel working under him as well as the technical management of the subject assigned to him.

The Executive Engineer is in-charge of the operation, maintenance and construction works in Pondicherry region, with the following sub-divisions under his control:

- 1. Operation & Maintenance Sub-Division (Town)
- 2. Operation & Maintenance Sub-Division (Rural)
- 3. Construction and Commercial Sub-Division.
- 4. Construction, Cable and Workshop Sub-Division.

Operation and Maintenance Sub-Division (Town): This sub-divisionl headed by an Assistant Engineer, is in-charge of the operation and maintenance of supply in the town area. The Pondicherry town is divided into four sections for purposes of power supply viz. Pondicherry (North), Pondicherry (South), Pondicherry (West) and Dhanwantarinagar. Each section is under the control of one Junior Engineer working under the control/supervision of the Assistant Engineer (Town).

Operation and Maintenance Sub-Division (Rural): The Sub-Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the power supply in the rura, areas, which is divided into seven sections and each placed under the jurisdiction of a Junior Engineer/Section Officer.

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1.	Villiyanur Section	• •	Junior Engineer
2.	Bahur Section		Section Officer
3.	Tiruvandarkovil Section	• •	Section Officer
4.	Kariyamanikkam Section		Junior Engineer
5.	Tirukkanur Section		Section Officer
6.	Karkilambakkam Section		Section Officer
7.	Tavalakuppam Section		Section Officer

Construction and Commercial Sub-Division: This sub-division is incharge of extending overhead lines, both high tension and low tension and installing new distribution transformers. All remunerative extension works as well as major construction works like erection of 22 KV lines, new substations, major improvements to existing sub-stations are also carried out by

this sub-division. All remunerative proposals costing over Rs. 5,000 involving extension of supply to various categories of consumers, erection of additional sub-stations and associated lines are also formulated by this sub-division. The Assistant Engineer in-charge of this sub-division is assisted by one Junior Engineer and two Section Officers.

Construction, Cable and Workshop Sub-Division: This sub-division was formed with a view to implementing Plan schemes drawn up for the conversion of existing overhead lines into underground cable system. This sub-division is also in-charge of the transformer repairs, the workshop and the R.C.C. Pole Casting Yard. It functions under the supervision of an Assistant Engineer who is assisted by two Junior Engineers and one Section Officer.

Building Sub-Division: This sub-division is headed by the Deputy Director (the post of Deputy Director is of the rank of an Assistant Engineer) and is responsible for carrying out the testing of new energy meters, periodical testing of meters installed at various consumers' premises and inspection of low voltage installations. Besides ensuring that the installations conform to the rules, this sub-division is also responsible for the internal electrification of all government owned and leased buildings. The Deputy Director performs his duties with the help of one Junior Engineer (Building) and two Section Officers, one in-charge of Maintenance (Buildings) and the other in-charge of Statutory Inspection.

Technical Sub-Division: This sub-division assists the Superintending Engineer in scrutinising proposals for issuing administrative and technical sanctions and submitting proposals to the Government for sanction. The sub-division also looks after the correspondence with the Central Electricity Authority and other autonomous bodies. The Assistant Engineer in-charge of this sub-division also deals with matters connected with the Licensing Board and issue of competency certificates and permits to electrical wiremen, supervisors and licences to contractors. The Assistant Engineer is assisted by one Junior Engineer in discharging his functions.

Purchase Sub-Division: This sub-division, headed by an Assistant Engineer, deals with all matters pertaining to the purchase of various stores required for the office. Bulk of the items is purchased through the D.G.S. & D. Rate contract items are purchased directly wherever the Superintending Engineer

is the Direct Demanding Authority. The purchases are made in accordance with the order No. 138/71 of the Government dated 28 June 1971. This subdivision is also responsible for the supply of materials required for electrification and maintenance works.

Master Plan Sub-Division: This sub-division was created in May 1972 so as to rationalise the distribution system in urban and rural areas and to plan the replacement of overhead lines with underground cables. It is also concerned with the formulation of Annual Plans and Five Year Plans. All matters connected with the setting up of a Thermal Plant in Pondicherry, such as the preparation of preliminary reports, correspondence with the Central Electricity Authority are also attended to by this sub-division. The Assistant Engineer (Master Plan) is assisted by two Junior Engineers.

Karaikal Sub-Division: This sub-division, with headquarters in Karaikal, is headed by an Assistant Engineer. The Assistant Engineer is overall in-charge of operation and maintenance, construction of lines, installation of transformers, maintenance of government owned and leased buildings in Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions. He is assisted in his task by one Section Officer (Buildings), two Section Officers (Operation and Maintenance) and one Junior Engineer (Construction). The work in Mahe and Yanam is attended to by a Junior Engineer each with headquarters in Mahe and Yanam respectively.

Collection centres: There are in all twenty collection centres in the Territory to collect the current consumption charges from consumers. Twenty-seven Bill Collectors are engaged in collecting the current consumption charges, For the purpose of collecting the charges, Pondicherry is divided into three sections viz. (1) Pondicherry (Town) which is further divided into two sub-sections,—North and South—with a collection centre at each place (2) Pondicherry (Rural) covering the areas contiguous to the town, with collection centres at Muttiyalupettai, Mudaliarpettai, Kadirkamam, Laspettai, Orlayanpet and Kamban Nagar and (3) Pucca Rural with collection centres at Villiyanur, Tirukanur, Tiruvandarkovil, Kariyamanikkam, Karkilambakkam, Bahur and Tavalakuppam.

In Karaikal region there are three collection centres, two in Karaikal town (North and South) and one in T. R. Pattinam. Camp collections are being done at Ambagarattur, Niravi and Tirunallar on specified dates. Mahe and Yanam regions are provided with one centre each.

The Bill Collector attached to the various collection centres in the town and in the adjacent areas remit their collections to the cashier in the main office at the close of each working day. The Bill Collectors attached to other rural areas remit the amount into the nearest treasury the same day or the next day.

Stores: This is headed by a Stores Superintendent. He is responsible for taking receipt of stores ordered, issuing them to the field staff and maintaining proper account for all such items. There is one Central Store at Pondicherry and three sub-stores, one each at Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam where materials required for works are stocked.

### Directorate of Civil Supplies:

Before de facto merger it was the Bureau de Ravitaillement under the control of Bureau des Affaires Economiques that handled the distribution of scarce commodities to the public. After merger these functions came to be attended to by the Bureau des Affaires Politiques. In April 1956 the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was extended to this territory. However the Directorate of Civil Supplies was set up only in November, 1964. Since then the Directorate has undergone considerable expansion so as to ensure the effective enforcement of the control orders issued from time to time.

Presently the Directorate is headed by a Director drawn from the Pondicherry Civil Service (selection grade). He is the chief executive officer. He is assisted by one Deputy Director (also drawn from the P.C.S.) who has been declared as Head of Office as well as Drawing and Disbursing Officer. The Directorate consists of two wings comprising three sections designated as A, B & C. Section A, headed by a Superintendent (Gr. II) deals with all matters connected with establishment and accounts. The other wing headed by a Tahsildar consists of two Sections (i.e. B & C) each placed under the direct supervision of a Civil Supplies Officer.

The Civil Supplies Officer in-charge of Section B deals with, among other things, rice milling industry, the distribution of wheat and wheat products to dealers, issue of licence for the sale of levy and free sale sugar, issue of ration cards, distribution of controlled cloth, baby food, vegetables and inspection of check posts, enforcement of the Guest Control Order, Display of Stock and Prices Order, etc.

The Civil Supplies Officer in-charge of Section C deals with matters relating to procurement of paddy and rice, stock position, the availability and price control of essential commodities, licensing of cement, kerosene, diesel, petrol, vanaspathi, edible oils, foodgrain dealers and fair price 'shops. Both the Civil Supplies Officers are assisted by ministerial staff.

The duties assigned to the Civil Supplies Officers are in turn distributed among the Civil Supplies Inspectors who are concerned mainly with the procurement of paddy and rice. They also attend to certain specific functions like the issue of rice permits, dealers permits for maida, sugar, wheat, free sale sugar, vanaspathi and sooji, issue of new ration cards, renewal of licences of foodgrain dealers, levy sugar dealers, vanaspathi, cement and free sale sugar dealers licence, issue of transport permits for paddy and rice merchants, cement and vanaspathi dealers, permits for transport of paddy and rice for personal consumption as well as issue of no-objection certificates, issue and renewal of licence to kerosene dealers and collection of daily price particulars, etc. The procurement of paddy is effected on the basis of the Pondicherry Paddy (Procurement by Levy) Order, 1966, under which a producer, whether he is a landlord or tenant or sub-agent, has to measure to the authorised agent of the Government such quantity of paddy as specified in the schedule to the above order and at notified price.

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In Karaikal region one Civil Supplies Officer and two Civil Supplies Inspectors and one L.D.C. work directly under the control of the Administrator, Karaikal. The Administrator in Mahe is provided with the assistance of one Civil Supplies Inspector and one L.D.C. to attend to such duties. Like the Director of Civil Supplies in Pondicherry region, the Administrators concerned have been declared as competent authorities under the various control orders as well as Controlling and Drawing Officers for the staff of the civil supplies establishment in the respective regions.

Check posts: There are as many as 13 check posts in and around Pondicherry region and seven in Karaikal region to check illicit transport of essential commodities. The check posts are inspected by the officials of the Directorate at frequent intervals.

Food Cell: A Food Cell was formed in November, 1975 at the Directorate of Civil Supplies to ensure strict and effective enforcement of the various control orders. The Cell is headed by a Superintendent of Police who is directly answerable to the Director. A unit of the Food Cell is located in Karaikal region to carry on the same functions in that region. The Karaikal Food Cell functions under the control of the Superintendent of Police who also visits the outlying regions of Mahe and Yanam whenever circumstances warrant, as there are no Special Food Cell police personnel for the purpose in these regions. Details of the strength of the Food Cell in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions are given below:

		Si	Po	ondicherry region	Karaikal region	Territory
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)
Superintendent of Police		••		1	-	1
Sub-Inspector				7.1	1	2
Assistant Sub-Inspectors	• •		न्यापद्य ह	2		2
Head Constables				3	. 1	4
Police Constables		• •		6	4	10

The Food Cell was declared as a police station for all penal purposes under the control orders. The Cell is empowered to inspect the accounts and stock position of foodgrain dealers and keep a watch over the dealings of millers and commission agents. They also render assistance to competent authorities in dehoarding operations, detection of adulterated food and drugs, etc. The enforcement of the provisions of the Packaged Commodities (Regulation) Order, 1975 issued by the Central Government is also the responsibility of this Cell.

### The Directorate for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

The origin of the Harijan Welfare Office, its amalgamation with the Directorate of Social Welfare and its eventual change of nomenclature into what is now known as the Directorate for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been dealt with in Chapter XVII. What is attempted here is only a brief account of its organisational set-up and functions in general. The Director is the Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for the formulation and implementation of all harijan and social welfare programmes and for the proper functioning of all institutions under the Directorate's control.

For purposes of internal administration the Directorate is divided into two wings i.e., an Establishment and Accounts Wing and General Wing with several sections under each. The Establishment and Accounts Wing is headed by an Accounts Officer and the General Wing is headed by a Special Officer. The Establishment and Accounts Wing deals with establishment, budget, plan, accounts and all related matters. The General Wing attends to the implementation of all welfare schemes. While some of the sections in the General Wing dealing with women's and children's welfare are under the immediate supervision of the Assistant Director, the other sections are under the supervision of the Superintendent (Grade II).

Social Welfare Organizers: The field work in respect of Social and Welfare Programmes is attended to by the Social Welfare Organisers. The area of jurisdiction of each is determined as follows:

Name of the post (1)	Jurisdiction (2)				
Social Welfare Organiser I	Headquarters, Pondicherry Town				
Social Welfare Organiser II	Pondicherry – Mudaliyarpettai Area Ariyankuppam Commune Nettapakkam Commune				
Social Welfare Organiser III	Bahur Commune Ozhukarai Commune				
Social Welfare Organiser 1V	Mannadipattu Commune Villiyanur Commune				

Harijan Welfare Inspectors: The field work in respect of harijan welfare programmes in Pondicherry region is attended to by Harijan Welfare Inspectors whose area of jurisdiction is shown below:

Name of the post		Jurisdiction (2)		
(1)				
Harijan Welfare Inspector	I	Pondicherry		
Harijan Welfare Inspector	11	Ariyankuppam Commune Bahur Commune		
Harijan Welfare Inspector	III	Ozhukarai Commune Nettapakkam Commune		
Harijan Welfare Inspector	IV	Villiyanur Commune		
Harijan Welfare Inspector	V	Mannadipattu Commune		

Karaikal Branch: The Directorate has a branch office headed by a Social Welfare Organiser at Karaikal. He takes care of all field work in the region.

In Mahe and Yanam regions, harijan and social welfare programmes are implemented through the Administrator who carries out the work with the help of the Block Development Officer in the respective region. The activities pertaining to this Directorate are limited in Mahe as the number of persons belonging to scheduled castes is very small there. An account of the institutions functioning under the control of the Directorate is furnished under Chapter XVII.

# Directorate of Information, Publicity and Tourism:

In July 1956 the Service de l'information came to be headed by a Public Relations Officer. In 1957 a Field Publicity Unit was organized to look after plan publicity. This Unit functioned under the administrative control of the Development Department. 4 On the recommendation of the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance, the Field Publicity Unit was merged with the Public

Relations Office which then functioned under the administrative control of the General Administration Department. The Public Relations Officer was the first executive officer to be conferred the ex-officio Secretariat status and in that capacity he dealt with policy matters touching upon certain subjects at the Secretariat level. Realizing the need for the promotion of tourism in the Territory, the Public Relations Officer was given the subject of 'tourism' in 1961. In July 1970 the office was bifurcated with the 'tourism wing' becoming the Tourist Office headed by a Tourist Officer.

In 1972 the post of Public Relations Officer was redesignated as Director of Information and Publicity. 5 Following the re-merger of the Tourist Office with the Directorate of Information and Publicity in June 1973, the expanded set-up came to be known as the Directorate of Information, Publicity and Tourism. 6

There are now two wings in the Directorate, one dealing with all matters connected with 'information and publicity' and the other dealing with 'tourism'. The Director in his capacity as ex-officio Under Secretary deals with policy matters. As an executive officer he is responsible not only for formulating and executing plan schemes, but also for organizing all publicity and public relation activities on behalf of the Administration.

The Director is assisted in carrying out his administrative as well as executive functions by the Assistant Publicity Officer in so far as such functions relate to information and publicity and tourism. So far as matters connected with establishment and accounts are concerned the two wings function as a single unit, which is manned by a Junior Superintendent and other ministerial staff. The Assistant Publicity Officer is the Drawing and Disbursing Officer for both the wings.

The executive functions are performed by the following staff in the respective fields shown against each:

1. Chief Organiser : Community Listening Sets

Radio Rural Forums.

2. Field Publicity Assistant : Exhibition, Field Publicity, Song and

Drama Programmes.

3. Sub-editors (I) & (II) ; Print media and Press Advertisements.

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The Reception Officer attached to the Directorate takes care of State guests and ceremonial functions.

Tourist Wing: The Assistant Director of Tourism is responsible for the proper functioning of the Government Tourist Homes at Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, the State Guest Houses at Pondicherry and New Delhi, the Boating Centres, the Excursion Centres, etc. He is also responsible for the formulation and implementation of plan schemes relating to tourism. The Tourist Information Assistant attached to this wing is responsible for tourist publicity and for the supply of tourist information to incoming as well as outgoing tourists. He also arranges for tourist guide service and sight-seeing trips.

The following institutions are under the control of the Tourist Wing, although their management is the immediate responsibility of the officer shown against each:

1. Government Tourist Home, Pondicherry

.. Manager

2. Government Tourist Home, Indira Nagar, Pondicherry

... Receptionist

3. Government Tourist Home, Karaikal .. Manager

4. Government Tourist Home, Mahe .. Administrator, Mahe

5. Government Tourist Home, Yanam .. Administrator, Yanam

6. Boating Centre, Pondicherry ... Caretaker

7. Boating Centre, Karaikal .. Boatman

8. Excursion Centre, Pondicherry ... Tourist Information Assistant

9. Beach Resort, Pondicherry .. Tourist Information Assistant

10. Sea-View Restaurant, Pondicherry .. (Leased out)

11. Pondicherry Government Guest .. Liaison Officer House, New Delhi.

## Directorate of Settlement, Survey and Land Records:

The Directorate of Survey and Land Records was formed in 1967 to conduct a resurvey of all lands in the Territory under the Pondicherry Survey and Boundaries Act, 1967. An Assistant Director of Survey and Land Records from Tamil Nadu was appointed the following year as its first Director, Besides the Director, most of the technical staff viz., Inspector of Survey, Sub-Inspector of Survey, Deputy Surveyors, Field Surveyors, Head Draughtsmen, etc. were also drawn on deputation from the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu since no technical hands were then available in Pondicherry. The Directorate was placed under the administrative control of the Revenue Department and the Director was conferred ex-officio secretariat status (Under Secretary) in the Revenue Department in order to effect better coordination between the administrative and executive wings. In due course the locally recruited personnel were given training so as to facilitate the replacement of personnel drawn on deputation.

The Directorate as it exists at present comprises the Administrative Wing, the Technical Section, the Survey Branch and the Settlement Wing.

Administrative Wing: The Administrative Wing, functioning under the direct control of the Director, is headed by a Superintendent (Grade II). This Wing attends to all matters concerned with establishment and accounts of the entire Directorate.

Technical Section: The chief responsibilities of this section is to scrutinize the survey records prepared by the field staff, compute the area of holdings and supply copies of plans to parties. This section is also engaged in the drawing and printing of village maps, the preparation of taluk and karnam copies of Field Measurement Books for all regions, test correction field work in Karaikal, settlement changes in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions, writing of stone inspection registers together with demarcation sketches. Besides these items of work, the Technical Section also carries out scrutiny of records in land acquisition cases. The preparation of taluk maps, region maps and other special maps is also done in this section. The preparation of pattas under the Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Act, 1973 and house site pattas for the landless also form part of its function.

Survey Branch: The Survey Branch is made up of two Units, one functioning at headquarters and the other at Karaikal. While the former is in-charge of Pondicherry and Yanam regions, the Karaikal Unit is responsible for Karaikal and Mahe regions. The Units consist of the following staff:

			Pondicherry Unit		Karaikal Unit
1.	Field Surveyor	• •	 • •	16	8
2.	Deputy Surveyor		 	8	5
3.	Sub-Inspector of Survey		 	_	1
4.	Inspector of Survey		 	1	_

Field surveyors are employed on location for the measurement of holdings and preparation of original records. The preparation of layouts and subdivision records under the scheme 'provision of free house sites to landless labourers' in rural areas and under the Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Act, 1973 also forms part of its function. The Survey Branch attends to survey operations connected with land reforms implemented by the Revenue Department and welfare schemes implemented by the Directorate for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This branch also employs its staff for village, natham, street and town surveys. The joint verification of inter-state borders extending to 492 km. in length in respect of the common boundary between the Union Territory and Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, also form part of its responsibility. This Wing also attends to land complaints from registered holders under section 8 of the Pondicherry Survey and Boundaries Act, 1967.

Settlement Wing: All works connected with the settlement operations under the Pondicherry Settlement Act, 1970 is attended to by this Wing. The Settlement Tahsildar, who is also the Settlement Officer appointed under the Act, attends to the various stages of settlement operations under the control of the Director of Settlement with the assistance of the field staff consisting of one Tahsildar, three Deputy Tahsildars and 12 Settlement Revenue Inspectors. In fact the settlement operations in Pondicherry and Mahe regions began in 1972 while in Karaikal and Yanam it began one year later. The settlement accounts relating to Pondicherry and Mahe regions were completed and handed over to

the Revenue Department on 1 July 1973 and those relating to Karaikal and Yanam regions on 1 July 1974 to enable them to collect land tax at the new rates. The Settlement Wing also attends to field work like enumerations, enquiry, etc. relating to the enforcement of the provisions of the Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Act, 1973. The Wing also carries out enumeration, enquiry, etc. connected with the scheme for the provision of free house-sites to landless labourers in rural areas and acquisition of land under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 for the provision of free house-sites to landless labourers in rural areas.

Section writers are employed on daily wages for preparing patta copies and attending to minor items of work like preparing and arranging the nominal list of land holders in the alphabetical order and for similar items of work. Their number vary from time to time according to the requirements of work.

Once all items of survey and settlement work are completed, the field staff will be allotted to definite areas to function as maintenance staff to maintain the Survey and Revenue Records and to attend to special subdivision work.

## Bureau of Statistics and Evaluation:

The Bureau of Statistics was set up in August 1957 for the purpose of collecting and compiling essential statistics in different fields. 7 The Bureau has since then been responsible for supplying a wide range of statistical data and reports to the various Departments, the Government of India and other public sector institutions. Following the extension of the Collection of Statistics Act, 1953 the Bureau also started conducting the Annual Survey of Industries since 1961. Although initially the Bureau functioned under the administrative control of the Development Department, it has ultimately come to rest with the Finance Department. With the formation of an Evaluation Cell in 1964, it became the Bureau of Statistics and Evaluation. The Bureau with its head-quarters at Pondicherry is headed by the Director of Statistics who is the chief executive officer.

The Statistical Wing: The Statistical Wing manned by four Assistant Statistical Officers, three Research Assistants, 13 Statistical Inspectors, 21 Field Supervisors, 12 Computers, two Price Inspectors etc., is engaged in the collection

of official statistics, agricultural statistics and data on Community Development Programme. The Wing also prepares the State Income Estimates, carries out crop cutting experiments, the Annual Survey of Industries, Livestock Census, Survey of Small Scale Industries, Prices and Market Intelligence, Census of Government employees, Family Living Surveys, besides attending to the printing of statistical publications A Drawing Section is attached to the Statistical Wing for the preparation of charts, maps, etc.

The Evaluation Cell: The Evaluation Cell, headed by an Evaluation Officer, functioned under the supervision of the Director. The Cell carried out evaluation surveys and studies besides maintaining building statistics and details of prices of building materials. With effect from 3 August 1976 however the Evaluation Cell together with the staff was detached from the Bureau and merged with the Directorate of Planning and Research.

The Bureau runs a branch office at Karaikal which is manned by a Statistical Inspector, one Computor and seven Field Supervisors.

## The Collectorate:

Since the days of Napoleon-I, the executive remained separated from the judiciary not only in France but also in all overseas territories. This arrangement continued up to 1 October 1963. Except for short intervals when these establishments fell into the hands of the British, they had never been under a Collector whose functions stretched from the realm of revenue administration and judiciary to law and order. Under the French set-up, even the functions relating to revenue administration, were apportioned between two officers viz., the Chef du Service des Contributions whose powers were restricted to revenue assessment and excise and the 'Trésorier-Payeur' who exercised control over the Treasury and revenue collection. The powers of the magistracy were vested in the Service Judiciaire. The maintenance of law and order was the concern of the Procureur de la République and the police force under him. The Mayors of the different communes also exercised some magisterial powers in their capacity as 'Premier Magistrat de la Commune' in matters relating to public health, sanitation, etc.

After merger, however, the office of the 'Trésorier-Payeur' was considered redundant and abolished by the arrété of 11 May 1955 and the functions of the Térsorier-Payeur were entrusted to the Chef du Service des Contributions.

Since then the Bureau de Contributions was placed in-charge of assessment and recovery of various direct and indirect taxes (including land revenue, income-tax and turnover-tax), auctioning of various usufructs, registration of lease deeds and other documents, sale of revenue stamps and stamp papers, survey work, including land acquisition. The Government Distillery, Rent Court, Mahe and Bureau des Hypothèques at Karaikal were attached to Service des Contributions. Besides it had under its control the Mont-de-Piété which had branches in all the four regions. Hence in a sense the Chef du Service des Contributions may be regarded as having performed the functions of a District Collector in the Territory, during the transitional period. Following de jure transfer effected on 16 August 1962, as many as 160 Central Acts were extended to this Territory with effect from 1 October 1963. Many of these Acts stipulated certain functions to be performed by Collectors. Hence the need for having the post of Collector was felt for the first time on the eve of extension of these Acts. requirement was partly met by the issue of a notification on 1 October 1963 declaring the Chef du Service des Contributions, Pondicherry and the Administrators of the outlying regions as Collectors.

Though the post of Chief of Contributions and that of the Administrators were of the same cadre, the former exercised overall control over the Territory in regard to revenue matters whereas the latter exercised their powers in their respective regions only. Moreover, the Chief of Contributions was not declared as a full-fledged Collector and therefore could not exercise all the powers which his counterparts in the neighbouring States were empowered to perform. Added to this, the Collectors in the neighbouring States were on a higher rank than the Chef du Service des Contributions and the Administrators. This arrangement was not found conducive to efficient administration and proper co-ordination.

It was also considered necessary to raise the status of the Collector in the Territory to the level of his counterparts in other States. In these circumstances, the then Secretary to Government, in-charge of Revenue, Development and Planning was appointed as Collector with effect from 9 April 1967 for the whole Territory which was declared as a 'district' for purposes of revenue administration. Thus the Collectorate may be said to have come into existence in this Territory only from 9 April 1967. The Collector was also declared as District Magistrate (Independent).

Following the appointment of a Collector, the Territory was divided into four revenue divisions viz., Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. The communes and villages were regrouped into compact and viable units as 'firkas' and 'taluks'. The Chef du Service des Contributions and the Administrators were declared as Deputy Collectors (Revenue) in their respective regions. The post of an Executive Magistrate (Independent) was newly created in order to attend to the magisterial functions. It may be mentioned in passing that the Treasury which also formed part of the Revenue set-up was separated from it and attached to the Pay and Accounts Office in April 1968.

A further reorganisation took place on 15 April 1970. The Controller of Weights and Measures, till then under the control of the Finance Department, came under the Collector and was redesignated as Deputy Collector (Excise). The post of Executive Magistrate (Independent) was converted into that of Additional District Magistrate (Independent). The Deputy Collector (Revenue) was appointed also as Sub-Divisional Magistrate. Thus with effect from 15 April 1970, the District Collector in this Territory came to enjoy the same powers enjoyed by a District Collector in the neighbouring States.

The District Collector who is the Secretary to Government (Revenue, Finance and Planning) also performs the functions of the Chief Controlling Revenue Authority under the Indian Stamps Act, 1899, the Inspector General of Registration under the Indian Registration Act, 1908, the Excise Commissioner under the Medical and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 the Registrar General of Marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954, Director of Chits under the Pondicherry Chit Funds Act, 1966, the Land Board under the Mahe Land Reforms Act, 1968 and the Excise Commissioner under the Pondicherry Excise Act, 1970.

Under the reorganisation effected on 17 January 1974, the Secretary (Revenue, Finance and Planning)-cum-ex-Officio Collector and District Magistrate became Secretary (Revenue) and Collector-cum-District Magistrate so as to enable the Secretary to devote more attention to his field work in his capacity as Collector.

The Secretary (Revenue) and Collector-cum-District Magistrate is assisted on the administrative side, by an Under Secretary in-charge of revenue matters performing also the functions of an Additional District Magistrate. On the executive side the Collector is assisted by two Deputy Collectors one in-charge

of Excise and other in-charge of Revenue. While the Deputy Collector (Revenue) at headquarters performs the functions of a Sub-Divisional Magistrate in the whole of Pondicherry region, the Administrators in the outlying regions function as Deputy Collector (Revenue), Deputy Collector (Excise) as well as Sub-Divisional Magistrates within the limits of their regions.

Under the Pondicherry Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1973, the Deputy Collector (Revenue) has been declared as Authorized Officer for the entire Pondicherry region. The Administrator, Karaikal who is also the Deputy Collector (Revenue) and a Revenue Officer function as Authorized Officers under the Act in Karaikal region. While the jurisdiction of the former is limited to Kottuchcheri and Nedungadu Communes that of the latter extends to the remaining four communes.

Under the Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Act, 1973, the Director of Survey and Land Records has been notified as the Authorized Officer for the entire Pondicherry region and Yanam region. As for Karaikal, a Deputy Collector (Kudiyiruppu) has been specially appointed to perform the functions of the Authorized Officer.

Under the Land Grant Rules, 1975 which seeks to assign government land for families of servicemen killed in action, ex-servicemen disabled in action, landless poor, harijans, persons in active military service, repatriates from Burma and Ceylon, goldsmiths displaced on account of the Gold Control Act and other landless poor, the Director of Survey and Land Records has been declared as Deputy Collector (Revenue) for Pondicherry region. In Karaikal region the Administrator in his capacity as Deputy Collector (Revenue) performs the functions under the rules.

## Office of the District Magistrate:

The Office of the District Magistrate (Independent) is again a post-merger phenomenon in that it came into existence only on 1 October 1963. During the French period, the 'Procureur de la République' occupied the position now held by the District Magistrate (Independent) and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Executive), with regard to the maintenance of law and order. The issue of licences for arms and ammunition was the responsibility of the 'Commandant des Forces Publiques' (Head of the Police Department). The Chef du Bureau des Affaires Politiques was the licence issuing authority for cinema halls. The

functions of the present Government Pleader were attended to by the 'Avocat de l'Administration'. Thus it would appear that the wide range of functions of the District Magistrate was held by a number of officers during the French days and even thereafter upto 30 September 1963.

On 1 October 1963 when the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 stood extended to this Territory, the Revenue Department was staffed on the French pattern and no officer could be conferred with the magisterial powers as laid down in the Criminal Procedure Code. In these circumstances the Chief Secretary was appointed District Magistrate (Independent) for the whole Territory of Pondicherry under article 10 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code and from then onwards he exercised all the executive powers of the District Magistrate as enumerated in the Code. By virtue of the powers conferred by article 13 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Chief Commissioner appointed the Administrators of the outlying regions of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam as 'Sub-Divisional Magistrates (Executive)' in their respective regions.8 In 1966 the Secretary (General Administration) was appointed as Additional District Magistrate (Independent), Pondicherry to assist the District Magistrate in discharging his functions. On 9 April 1967 a full fledged Collectorate emerged, Then the Collector was entrusted with the powers of the District Magistrate (Independent). The Under Secretary (Revenue) was declared as Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Excise). All the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars were given magisterial training to deal with petty law and order problems in their respective regions.

Following the introduction of the Pondicherry Civil Courts Act, 1966 with effect from 5 September 1968 the post of 'Procureur de la République' was abolished. The magisterial powers exercised hitherto by the Mayors of the Communes were also withdrawn.

Following the reorganisation of the Revenue Department in April 1970, the Under Secretary (Revenue) was declared as Additional District Magistrate, the Deputy Collector (Revenue) as Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the Deputy Collector (Excise) as First Class Magistrate. Subsequently Tahsildars were made First Class Magistrates and Deputy Tahsildars of Bahur and Villiyanur were made Second Class Magistrates.

With the coming into force of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, sixteen Executive Magistrates were appointed for the entire Territory. Their area of jurisdiction was also determined by the District Magistrate, Pondicherry. The Deputy Collector (Revenue) who is also an Executive Magistrate is called Sub-Divisional Magistrate for Pondicherry Subdivision whereas this position is held by the Administrators in the outlying areas of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. 9

The District Magistrate is the licensing authority for various categories of arms and ammunitions, for the grant of licences for the transport of explosives, for the manufacture and sale of fire-works, for the possession of fire-works, for the storage of non-dangerous petroleum and for running cinema theatres in the Territory. All declarations to start printing presses and newspapers have to be filed before him. He also functions as the Chairman of the Advisory Board for Jails under the Pondicherry Prison Rules. Whenever law and order are threatened, the District Magistrate has to take all necessary measures to prevent breach of peace and tranquillity. He is also empowered to issue prohibitory orders to prevent any breach of peace and for protecting the life and property of the public. Similar powers are vested with the Administrators who function as Sub-Divisional Magistrates in the outlying regions.

Public Prosecutors: All civil cases in which the Administration is involved are dealt with by the Government Pleader. Criminal cases fall under the competence of the Public Prosecutor, Pondicherry when such cases are brought before the Sessions Court. In the other Magistrate Courts such cases are attended to by the Assistant Public Prosecutors. Writ petitions filed in the Madras High Court are attended to by the Public Prosecutor and the Government Pleader.

#### Office of the Commissioner of Labour:

At the time of merger the Bureau de l'Inspection du Travail was the governmental out-fit which attended to all matters connected with labour and their problems. Labour disputes were referred to the Labour Tribunal (Tribunal de Travail). Whenever disputes could not be resolved by the Labour Tribunal they were referred to a 10-member Labour Advisory Board headed by the Labour Inspector. When such disputes could not be resolved even by the Labour Advisory Board they were finally referred to experts who were selected by mutual agreement between the parties and in the absence of such an agreement,

the experts were nominated by the Chief Commissioner from a panel of judges appointed every year. 10 This arrangement continued till de jure transfer. In October 1963, as many as twenty-three Central Labour Acts were extended to this Territory. Following the extension of these Acts, the Inspectorate had to be strengthened in order to enforce the provisions of these Acts. Then came into being the Office of the Commissioner of Labour. The office has since then grown in order to cope with its increased responsibilities.

The Office of the Commissioner of Labour is under the administrative control of the Labour Department at the Secretariat level. The Commissioner of Labour, who is the chief executive of the office, has also been conferred ex-officio secretariat status to enable him to deal with policy matters.

The following are the subordinate offices and institutions under its control:

Subordinate offices

Subordinate institutions

- 1. Employment Exchange
- 2. Labour Office
- 3. Inspectorate of Factories
- 1. Labour Welfare Centres
- 2. Child Welfare Centres
- 3. Industrial Training Institute,
- 4. Office of the Technical Officer

The Commissioner is empowered to act in the capacities indicated below under the provisions of the Acts shown against each:

- (i) Commissioner of Labour .. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948
- (ii) Registrar of Trade Unions ... The Trade Unions Act, 1926
- (iii) Chief Inspector of Factories ... The Factories Act, 1948.
- (iv) Chief Inspector of Boilers ... The Indian Boilers Act, 1923.
- (v) State Apprenticeship Advisor ... The Apprentices Act, 1961.

- (vi) Director of Employment ... The Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959.
- (vii) Chief Conciliation Officer .. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- (viii) Certifying Officer ... The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.
  - (ix) Commissioner for Workmen's .. The Workmen's Compensation Compensation Act, 1923.
  - (x) Authority ... The Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

The Deputy Labour Commissioner performs also the functions of —

- (i) Additional Commissioner for ... Under the Workmen's Compen-Workmen's Compensation. sation Act, 1923.
- (ii) Authority ... Under the Pondicherry Shops and Establishments Act, 1964.
- (iii) Additional Authority ... Under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.
- (iv) Registering Officer ... Under the Contract Labour (Regulations and Abolition)
  Act, 1970.

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In the capacity of Director of Training, the Commissioner of Labour is also in-charge of the implementation of the Craftsmen Training Scheme under which the Industrial Training Institute is being maintained at T. R. Pattinam, Karaikal.

The Deputy Labour Commissioner is the head of office as well as the Drawing and Disbursing Officer for the Office of the Commissioner of Labour, the Labour Welfare Centres and Child Welfare Centres. But in the case of the Industrial Training Institute, T. R. Pattinam, the Group Instructor has been declared as the Drawing and Disbursing Officer.

# Employment Exchange: (vide Chapter IX)

Labour Office: This is a subordinate office under the control of the Office of the Commissioner of Labour. The Labour Officer (Conciliation) is the Head of Office as well as Drawing and Disbursing Officer. He is chiefly concerned with the strict enforcement of the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act. 1947.

He also functions as -

(i) Conciliation Officer

the Industrial Disputes Under Act, 1947.

(ii) Authority

Under the Pondicherry Catering Establishments Act, 1964.

(iii) Authority

Under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

(iv) Inspector

Under the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Services) Act, 1976.

Inspectorate of Factories: The Inspectorate of Factories is another subordinate office under the control of the Office of the Commissioner of Labour. The Inspector of Factories is the Head of Office as well as the Drawing and Disbursing Officer for the entire staff in the Inspectorate. He is responsible for the strict enforcement of some of the important labour laws. The Inspector of Factories acts in different capacities under the provisions of different laws as shown below:

1. Inspector of Factories

The Factories Act, 1948.

2. Deputy Chief Inspector of Boilers ... The Indian Boilers Act, 1923.

3. Assistant State Apprenticeship Advisor.

The Apprentices Act, 1961.

4. Licensing Officer

The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

An Assistant Inspector of Labour is placed in-charge of the Regional Office at Karaikal. He looks after the enforcement of various Acts in that region. 11

It may be relevant to add here that following the extension of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme to this Territory, a separate Employees' State Insurance Wing came to be established in the Directorate of Health and Family Planning Services. (For more details vide Chapter XVI).

Office of the Technical Officer: This office is responsible for the enforcement of the Apprentices Act, 1961 in the Territory. The Technical Officer who is in-charge of the office is assisted by a Surveyor-cum-Technical Assistant and ministerial staff in the task of implementing the Apprenticeship Training Scheme. He has also been declared as Assistant State Apprenticeship Adviser.

Vide Chapter XVIII for a brief account on the Labour Tribunal.

# Office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies:

Soon after merger the Office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies was set up to launch the co-operative movement in this Territory. Since then the movement has made giant strides and naturally so the Office of the Registrar has also grown steadily alongside.

The set-up as it exists now (1976) is headed by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies who is also the Head of Office. On the executive side he is assisted by three Deputy Registrars and one Dairy Development Officer, all of whom exercise such of those powers as have been delegated to them under the Pondicherry Co-operative Societies Act, 1972 and the Pondicherry Co-operative Societies Rules, 1973, without reference to the Registrar. The executive work is allocated among the three Deputy Registrars who are respectively in-charge of the Credit Wing, the Non-Credit Wing and the Audit Wing. The Audit Wing was actually organised in July 1968 and functioned under the direct control of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Credit Wing: This Wing, placed under the immediate control of a Deputy Registrar (Credit), comprises two sections, one dealing with 'Planning' and the other 'Credit' each headed by a Sub-Registrar of Co-operatives. All matters connected with the co-operative law and administration, banks, state co-operative

union, handlooms and powerlooms fall within the purview of the Planning Section. Matters pertaining to marketing societies, fertilizers, sugar factory, National Co-operative Development Corporation, training programmes connected with the marketing of fertilisers, etc., are the concern of the Credit Section.

Non-Credit Wing: This Wing, also headed by a Deputy Registrar, comprises two sections each headed by a Sub-Registrar dealing with matters relating to housing and arbitration and execution of matters relating to powerlooms, handloom weavers and the printing press.

The Audit Wing: This Wing, formed in July 1968, functions under the direct control of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, although the Deputy Registrar (Audit) deals with all matters connected with auditing besides attending to matters connected with establishment and accounts. He has also been declared as Drawing and Disbursing Officer in respect of all the staff attached to the Office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The Deputy Registrar is assisted by a Sub-Registrar to deal with technical matters and a Superintendent (Non-Secretariat) to attend to matters connected with office establishment and accounts. The Deputy Registrar (Audit) is also in-charge of consumers co-operatives.

The Dairy Wing: This Wing is headed by a Dairy Development Officer. He is the executive officer responsible for Dairy Co-operatives, Poultry Breeders Co-operative Societies, Milk Producers Co-operative Societies and Poultry Breeding Programmes in the Territory.

The Branch Offices in the regions of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam are each headed by a Co-operative Sub-Registrar who functions under the overall control of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Some institutions like co-operative societies, stores, banks etc., are manned by personnel sent on foreign service terms from the Office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

The executive functionaries are also given statutory assignments touching on arbitration, enquiries, execution of decrees, inspection, liquidation, etc. Arbitration cases are heard and disposed of by Arbitrators appointed for the purpose.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

#### Commercial Tax Office:

The Sales Tax Office started functioning with effect from 1 April 1966 to enforce the provisions of the Pondicherry General Sales Tax Act, 1955 which was brought into force on 1 April 1966. However the validity of the Act was challenged by writ petitions and the Supreme Court declared it ab initio void. The new Pondicherry General Sales Tax Act, 1967 which received the assent of the President on 2 November 1967 and was published in the State Gazette on 20 November 1976, was deemed to have come into force from 1 April 1966.

The Sales Tax Office redesignated as Commercial Tax Office is headed by a Deputy Commissioner. It functions under the administrative control of the Finance Department, the Secretary of which is vested with statutory powers of revision, etc. under the Pondicherry General Sales Tax and Central Sales Tax Acts. The Deputy Commissioner was conferred ex-officio (Deputy Secretary) secretariat status to enable him to have direct dealings with the Secretariat. He has been declared as the Head of the Department under the redelegation of financial powers. He is also vested with statutory powers under the Pondicherry General Slaes Tax Act, 1967 and the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 and functions as Revisionary Authority under the said Acts.

The Deputy Commissioner (Commercial Tax) is assisted by the Assistant Commissioner (Commercial Tax) who has been declared as Head of Office and has been conferred ex-officio (Under Secretary) secretariat status. He is vested with special powers under the Pondicherry Revenue Recovery Act, 1970 to collect all arrears, and is also the State Liaison Officer for correspondence with the Commercial Tax Departments of other States on reciprocal basis. He represents the Administration in all cases referred to the Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal, Pondicherry.

The Commercial Tax Office comprises three wings viz. the Administration Wing including Audit, the Assessment Wing and the Appellate Wing. While the Administrative and the Assessment Wings are under the immediate control of the Assistant Commissioner (Commercial Tax) the Appellate Wing is under the control of the Appellate Assistant Commissioner (Commercial Tax).

Administrative Wing: This Wing attends to tax cases and appeals pending with the Tribunal and the High Court, revision petitions, preparation of demand, correction and balance statements, inspection and audit,

enrolment of sales tax practitioners, preparation of sales tax statements, etc., besides dealing with policy matters. An Audit Division is also attached to this Wing. It attends to the internal audit of files and records maintained by the Assessment Divisions.

Assessment Wing: The Assessment Wing is in-charge of assessment. For purposes of assessment the entire Territory is divided into four divisions, two functioning in Pondicherry region and one each at Karaikal and Mahe. All the assessment divisions except Mahe are headed by Joint Commercial Tax Officers who have been declared as Heads of Offices in respect of the staff attached to the division concerned. The Assessment Division in Mahe is under the control of a Deputy Commercial Tax Officer. This division functions under the control of the Joint Commercial Tax Officer, Karaikal. Besides exercising the statutory powers under the Pondicherry General Sales Tax and the Central Sales Tax Acts, they carry out surprise shop inspections and lorry checking.

The Appellate Wing: This Wing is under the control of the Appellate Assistant Commissioner (Commercial Tax) whose functions are of a quasi-judicial nature. He is the first appellate authority under the Pondicherry General Sales Tax and the Central Sales Tax Acts. Appeals over the decisions of the Appellate Assistant Commissioner (Commercial Tax) he with the Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal. The Principal District and Sessions Judge functions as the one-man Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal.

Intelligence Wing: The Intelligence Wing is under the charge of a Joint Commercial Tax Officer and it has jurisdiction over the entire Territory. This Wing maintains a watch over tax evasions and suppression of taxable transactions.

## Temple Administration:

All matters relating to temple administration continued to be dealt with in the Bureau des Affaires Politiques even after merger. This arrangement continued till I October 1963, when the whole administrative set-up was reorganised. Since then the subject came to be dealt with by the Department of Local Administration. The affairs of temple administration came to be better attended to since 1969 when a Special Officer for Religious and Charitable Institutions was appointed. In fact the arrêté of 29 June 1918 did not place

definite responsibilities on trustees nor could it empower the Government to take necessary action. In order to remedy the situation and to effectively supervise the affairs of the religious institutions, it was felt necessary to bring forward some progressive measure. This was sought to be achieved with the passing of the Pondicherry Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1972. The Pondicherry Hindu Religious Institutions (Amendment) Act, 1973 passed in April 1973 provided for the appointment of members of scheduled castes as members in the board of trustees. The Pondicherry Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1972 came into force with effect from 1 July 1975. The Pondicherry Hindu Religious Institutions Rules, 1975 framed under the Act spell out the duties and responsibilities of trustees and executive officers, outline the procedure of board meetings, mode of preparation of budget, carrying out repairs and renovations in the temples, etc. The Commissioner for Hindu Religious Institutions is under the administrative control of the Local Administration Department. He is conferred the ex-officio secretariat status to deal with policy matters. He is also an executive officer so far as temple administration is concerned. But he is neither the Head of Office nor the Drawing and Disbursing Officer for the staff working under him. In all such matters, the Under Secretary [(Local Administration) performs the functions of both Head of Office as well as Drawing and Disbursing Officer. The Commissioner is assisted by one Office Manager and two Upper Division Clerks at present. The chief functions of the Commissioner for Hindu Religious Institutions is to supervise and control the management of all Hindu Religious Institutions.

## Government Press, Pondicherry:

The Government printing press in Pondicherry was established in the year 1817. In the beginning there were facilities for printing only in French. However, printing in Tamil is said to have been started from 19 July 1928.

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As many other governmental establishments, the Government Press too has undergone considerable expansion both in terms of staff and equipment. The press is headed by a Director who is responsible for the efficient operation of the press. He is assisted by an Accounts Officer to deal with all matters connected with establishment and accounts. On the technical side the printing establishment is made up of two sections, viz. Composing and Proof-reading Section headed by a Top Senior Reader and Machine and Binding Section headed by a Top Senior Foreman.

Stationery Wing: Apart from undertaking all printing works pertaining to the Government, the Press is also responsible for the supply of stationery to all Governments Departments and Offices. The Stationery side is headed by a Store-keeper. Every year, indents are placed with the Controller of Stationery and Printing, Calcutta and with the Regional Office at Madras for the supply of stationery articles, according to the requirements of all Departments and Offices.

The Government Press moved out of its more than 100-year old premises in rue de l'Evêché to its new building at Tattanchavadi in 1975.

# Pay and Accounts Office, Pondicherry:

The Pay and Accounts Office, Pondicherry was formed on 1 November 1954. It operates on the model of the separated Pay and Accounts Office in Central Ministries. Headed by a Pay and Accounts Officer, this office functions under the administrative control of the Finance Department, Pondicherry. It functions as a combined Treasury-cum-Accounts Office but without Exchange or Settlement Account with any other Accounts Office. No payment could therefore be authorised at Pondicherry which are adjustable on the books of another Accounts Office nor any payment relating to this Union Territory could be authorised through another Accounts Officer, except in the case of pension payments made on behalf of other State Governments and Departments of the Central Government.

The payments relating to the Union Territory of Pondicherry and the Central Government Offices located at Pondicherry are made on bills. The bills are pre-audited cent per cent, including verification against budget allotment so as to ensure ex-chequer control which is one of the primary responsibilities of this office. Payments are effected by cheques drawn on the State Bank of India or on the Treasury/Sub-Treasuries.

The accounts for the State are compiled by the Pay and Accounts Office, Pondicherry. The accounts relating to the Central transactions are compiled separately by the Pay and Accounts Office. The auditing of transactions are performed by the Accountant-General, Tamil Nadu. For this purpose a separate wing is stationed at Pondicherry and functions under the control of the Accountant-General, Tamil Nadu. A compiled account for both State and

Central transactions are being sent to the Accountant-General, Central Revenues, New Delhi every month duly certified by the Residential Audit Party which is a wing of the Office of the Accountant-General, Tamil Nadu who exercises the statutory audit control.

The pension payments are made at Pondicherry, Karaikal and Villiyanur Treasuries as well as Mahe, Yanam and Bahur Sub-Treasuries. The pension papers are scrutinised and pension payment orders are issued in the Pay and Accounts Office. The Resident Audit Unit at Pondicherry conducts test audit of payments made by the Pay and Accounts Office.

Following the introduction of the departmentalised system of accounts in the Central Ministries/Departments with effect from 1 October 1976 the Pay and Accounts Office has not been auditing the bills and maintaining the accounts of Central Departments with effect from that date.

There are at present four Assistant Pay and Accounts Officers and one Stores Superintendent in this office and they attend to the work of six Pay Sections, Establishment Section, Cash Section, Accounts Section, Provident Fund Section, Compulsory Deposits Section, Pension Section, Deposits and Advances Section. The Pay and Accounts Officer is in direct charge of the Book and Appropriation Section, the Inspection Section and in overall supervision of the entire office.

One of the Assistant Pay and Accounts Officers has been declared as Head of Office for the entire staff of the Pay and Accounts Office.

The post of Stores Superintendent attached to the Finance Department was transferred to the Pay and Accounts Office along with the incumbent. He attends to the verification of stores. One post of Store-keeper Grade III was also transferred from the Directorate of Industries, Pondicherry along with the incumbent. He assists the Stores Superintendent in connection with the verification of stores.

In addition to checking of bills and issue of cheques, the Pay and Accounts Officer conducts inspection of the various Departments in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Under the provisions of the Pondicherry Municipalities Act and Commune Panchayats Act of 1973, the Pay and Accounts Officer was appointed by the Government as Auditor of Accounts both for expenditure and receipts. Hitherto only bills pertaining to expenditure of various municipalities were pre-audited before payment. But under the revised Municipalities Act of 1973, the Pay and Accounts Officer as Auditor of Accounts is given the additional responsibility of auditing the receipts also and to submit statutory audit reports of all Municipalities and Commune Panchayats to the respective Councils. For this, the Pay and Accounts Officer has been declared as Examiner of Local Fund Accounts (Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer) and one Supervisory Officer with some auditors has been created for conducting the audit of various Municipalities/Commune Panchayats and it functions under the control of the Local Administration Department, Pondicherry

As per the Pondicherry Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1972 the Pay and Accounts Officer has been appointed as the Statutory Audit Officer for the verification of accounts of the various Religious Institutions in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Pay and Accounts Office, Karaikal: There were no branch offices in the outlying regions of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam at the time of the formation of the Pay and Accounts Office in this Union Territory. All bills pertaining to these regions used to be submitted to the Pay and Accounts Office in Pondicherry and payment was effected through cheques drawn on Sub-Treasuries or branches of the State Bank of India functioning in those regions.

This procedure caused some difficulties and also led to delays. To obviate this, a branch of the Pay and Accounts Office was opened at Karaikal on 27 January 1968. For the functioning of the Pay and Accounts Office, Karaikal one entire section from the main office in Pondicherry along with one Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer was transferred to Karaikal. The bills received from the departmental officers including Mahe and Yanam are pre-checked cent per cent. Pension payments are made by the Treasury Office, Karaikal and Sub-Treasury Offices at Mahe and Yanam in cash with reference to pension payment orders issued by the Pay and Accounts Officer, Pondicherry. The transactions for each month in respect of all the three regions are compiled and consolidated accounts are sent to the Pay and Accounts Office, Pondicherry for

incorporation. The Resident Audit Unit, Pondicherry conducts concurrent audit of payments by periodical visits to Karaikal. The Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer, Karaikal has been declared as the Head of Office for the staff working under him in the regions of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. The Treasury at Karaikal and the Sub-Treasury Offices at Mahe and Yanam are under the control of the Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer, Karaikal.

Treasury: The functions of the Treasury (Trésor) were performed by the Trésorier-Payeur till 1955. As per the arrêté of 11 May 1955, the post of Trésorier-Payeur considered redundant was abolished and the functions of the Trésor were transferred to Service des Contributions. With the reorganisation of the Revenue set up on 1 April 1968, the Treasury was transferred to the Pay and Accounts Officer and the Pay and Accounts Officer was declared as Director of Treasuries. An Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer, Pondicherry exercised control over all the Treasuries in Pondicherry region and in respect of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions the Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer, Karaikal was nominated and they have been declared as Heads of Offices for the respective regions.

There are two Treasury Offices, one at Pondicherry and another at Villiyanur. One Sub-Treasury Office functions at Bahur. The Treasury Office at Karaikal and the Sub-Treasury Offices at Mahe and Yanam are under the control of the Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer, Karaikal. The Treasury Offices are under the immediate control of the Treasury Officers and the Sub-Treasury Offices are under the control of the Sub-Treasury Officers.

Stamp Office: Consequent on the declaration of the Pay and Accounts Officer as Superintendent of Stamps under the Stamp Act, an Office of the Superintendent of Stamps was formed during the year 1968. The Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer in the Pay and Accounts Office, Pondicherry who was declared as Head of Office for the Pay and Accounts Office, Pondicherry was in-charge of the Stamp Office as well. He has also been declared as Head of Office for the Stamp Office with the designation of Assistant Superintendent of Stamps. He exercises control over stamps for the entire Union Territory of Pondicherry.

#### Wakf Board:

The authority to control and supervise the management of Wakfs was vested in the Governor as per the décret of 15 September 1877 although the acceptance of donations and legacies was effected in pursuance of the Royal Ordinance dated 30 September 1827. This arrangement continued even after merger.

The extension of the Wakfs Act, 1954 (Central Act 29 of 1954) on 24 May 1968 came as a turning point. The Wakfs Act was brought into effect on 1 December 1969 and the Pondicherry Wakfs Rules, 1972 came into force with effect from 18 January 1973. Shortly after, a Wakf Board was constituted to deal with all matters connected therewith. The rules provided for the appointment of a Commissioner of Wakfs in the Territory. Particulars of properties and other relevant information of all Wakfs in the Territory were under collection as provided for in the Pondicherry Wakf Rules.

# Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency (MFALDA):

The Pondicherry Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Agency is one of the 41 such projects Developments launched the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, during the IV Plan period. As regards its organisational and administrative set-up, it is treated as a Non-Project Corporate Body registered under the Societies Registration Act. The Pondicherry Agency was registered on 8 December 1970. It draws up its own budget and is entirely financed by the Central Government. The grant-inaid is released half-yearly by the Ministry of Agriculture direct to the Agency. It is administered by a governing body headed by the Chief Secretary to the Government. The Project Officer is the chief executive officer of the Agency and also functions as its Member-Secretary. He also performs the functions of Head of Office as well as Drawing Officer for the entire staff of the Agency at Pondicherry and the Branch Office at Karaikal.

At the headquarters, the Project Officer is assisted by three Assistant Project Officers and one Extension Officer. The Assistant Project Officer (Agriculture) drawn from among the Tahsildars in the Revenue Department is primarily concerned with the identification of small farmers, marginal farmers and agricultural labourers in order to assess their eligibility for assistance. He also deals with fisheries, viz. procurement and distribution of nylon fishing nets, etc.

The Assistant Project Officer (Credit) drawn from the cadre of Cooperative Sub-Registrars deals with minor irrigation schemes. The Assistant Project Officer (Animal Husbandry) is a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon on deputation from the Directorate of Animal Husbandry. He is in-charge of purchase and distribution of milch animals, poultry, etc. and deals with all matters connected with animal husbandry.

The Extension Officer (Animal Husbandry), drawn from the cadre of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, assists the Assistant Project Officer (Animal Husbandry) in the field of cattle development and veterinary service.

The Branch Office of the Marginal Farmers Agricultural Labourers Development Agency in Karaikal is headed by an Assistant Project Officer who is drawn from among Superintendents (Grade I). He is the Disbursing Officer in respect of the staff under his control. In all technical matters he is assisted by an Extension Officer (Animal Husbandry) who is a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. The operation of this Agency was extended to Mahe and Yanam during 1976 – 77. The Agency is now known as the Small Farmers Development Agency following its conversion into a composite one, bringing the small farmers within the ambit of the Project.

सन्यापन जयन

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- 2. A.R. 1967-68, p. 3.
- 3. Extraordinary Gazette No. 17, dated 22-2-1971.
- 4. A.R. 1957-58, p. 35,
- 5. Circular No. 4229/72/Estt.B1 dated 3 October 1972 of the Home (Information and Publicity) Department.
- 6. G. O. (Ms.) No. 83, dated 8 June 1973 of the General Administration Department.

- 7. A.R. 1957-58, pp. 34-35.
- 8. Gazette No. 46 dated 12 November 1963, p. 676.
- 9. Gazette Extraordinary No. 52, dated 1 April 1974 and No. 5 of 4 April 1974.
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# CHAPTER—XIV

## LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

# I. History of local self-government

The earliest evidence of local self-government institutions in this part of the country is available from the Pallava days. The village was the smallest unit of administration in those days. Nadu was an administrative unit larger than the village but smaller than the Kottam. That the nattar were recognised representatives of the nadu in the days of Pallava Malla and his successors is attested by the Kasakkudi plates which contain a royal order addressed to the men of the nadu. In this particular instance the nattar were ordered to transfer a village named Kodikolli as a Brahmadeya to a certain Brahmin. The nattar and urar were distinguished men of the respective locality having power to deliberate over questions of public importance.

Of the village assemblies during the Chola days, three types have been identified viz., that of ur, sabha and the nagaram. All of them were primary assemblies of the residents of the localities concerned, and generally speaking, regulated all their common concerns. An inscription of Tirubhuvanai dated in the fortythird regnal year of Kulothunga-I (A.D. 1113) contains a provision that the artisans and professional men should pursue their crafts and professions within the precincts of the village and that such of them who served the residents of other villages would be deemed to have been guilty of grave offence against the law. This is referred to as an interesting example of rural protectionism.

Several local bodies and corporations enjoyed the privilege of raising tolls and octroi duties and other miscellaneous dues. The exercise of these privileges was subject to general supervision and control from the Centre. In fact the right to raise such dues in the village of Vagur (Bahur) was made the monopoly of the vellalas who enjoyed the kant of the place. This right was conferred by Rajendra-II by a royal order. The expression used is Vagur pattam. Important matters were sometimes taken up to the king for decision; two inscriptions of the reign of Kulothunga-I from Tirubhuvanai show him regulating the enjoyment of a kani and laying down a scheme for the promotion of areca plantations at Tirubhuvanai (200, 201 of 1919).

We may gather some idea of the village assemblies in the Vijayanagar days from an inscription of Tiruvandarkovil near Pondicherry. It is recorded there that Tirubhuvanamadevi Caturvedimangalam had an assembly consisting of 4,000 men (217 of 1917). These assemblies generally met in a temple hall failing which they seem to have gathered at some other public place. Though these assemblies were too large and unwieldy to transact much business, we may reasonably assume that their deliberations should have been conducted only by a few leading citizens of the locality. Thus people were accustomed to a highly developed system of local administration. As long as there was peace and prosperity, villages functioned as little republics enjoying a large measure of autonomy in the management of their own affairs.

Even as the French were here in the seventeenth century, many of the old practices of village administration were slowly disappearing. Although it is true that some of the old practices touching upon the powers of the mahanattars, castism, taxation, etc., were retained with suitable changes, they no longer formed the basis of village or local administration, But otherwise the concept of local self-government became popular only after the French Revolution in 1789. Even then the experiment was tried only among the European settlers. And it was not until 1880, that the natives were allowed to play their rightful role in matters of local self-government.

Now to trace the events since the revolution, the notables of Pondicherry met on 1 March 1790 under the Chairmanship of Moracin, an ex-employee of the French Company in India and constituted themselves into an Assemblée des Citoyens which on 11 March 1790 nominated a Comité permanent representatif des habitants de Pondichéry composed of 65 members.<sup>2</sup>

On 17 August 1790, the Committee received from Ile de France the moving appeal of the National Assembly to its provinces and the decree of 11 December 1789 constituting Municipalités and Assemblées administratives. 3 The question of constituting a municipality in Pondicherry could not be resolved by the Committee in spite of many sittings, the main hurdle being participation of Malabars (Indians) in the affairs of the municipality which was demanded by a group of agitators. The matter was therefore referred to the final decision of the General Assembly. Meanwhile, the President of the Committee succeeded in dispatching the agitators to France. Nevertheless, the Committee failed in its attempt to organise the municipality. The General Assembly itself then proceeded to set up a municipality, taking advantage

of the peacefulness brought about by the removal of the agitators from the scene. On 13 September 1790, nineteen members were nominated to form the Municipal Chamber from which both Malabars and Topas were excluded. Coulon was chosen as Mayor. He was assisted by five Echevins (aldermen), 12 notables and a Procureur. The municipality started functioning from 14 November 1790. 4

On 6 May 1791, the Pondicherry Committee was informed of the creation of a Municipality in Karaikal and the appointment of Bonvoust as its Mayor. In Mahe, a Municipal Chamber was set up on 16 April 1791 with Boyer as its Mayor. 5 In Yanam serious trouble erupted at the instigation of an employee of the French Company. Eight settlers grabbed power and formed an Assemblée Coloniale de Yanaon and elected a Comité Permanent which performed the functions of the Corps Municipal and Chambre administrative. 6

On 3 September 1791, the Assemblée Coloniale (Colonial Assembly) reorganised the 19 member Municipal Organisation as constituted by the Assemblée Générale des Citoyens de Pondichéry on 13 September 1790. The strength of the 'Corps Municipal' was reduced to four including the Mayor. The complement of twelve notables was reduced to seven. This reduction was effected because of the inability to find out among the French population suitable persons fulfilling the requirements of age and education. 7 The order further defined the mode of election of the Mayor, Municipal Officers, Procureur and notables and also the functions of the municipal police. This municipality was organised on the model of those in France and was empowered in addition to deal with all cases of disputes between Malabars and other Indians arising customs (usage et moeurs) which fell within the jurisdiction of the police. On all these matters, the municipality had to take beforehand the advice of the chiefs of castes or the heads of the families in the absence of the former,8 But everything was set at nought when the establishments fell once again into the hands of the British who abolished the municipalities. 9

After the restitution of the territory to the French in 1816, it took many years for municipal administration to take shape.

As per the arrêté of 6 August 1856, the Juge de Paix came to hold the post of Directeur de la Police and that of the Maire (Mayor). 10 This arrangement of a paid-official holding the mayoral post was not viewed with favour. Hence, with effect from 1 September 1873, the Juge de Paix was

divested of the additional functions. On the recommendation of the Ordonnateur, Jules Blum, a retired Commissaire de la Marine, was appointed Mayor and Chef du Service de la Police. 11 In 1877 when Blum tendered his resignation the Administration decided to abolish the posts of Maire and Directeur de la Police pending the organisation of municipalities in Pondicherry town and its districts. The Chef du Service des Contributions (Chief of Revenue Service) was provisionally appointed to function as Mayor and Officer of Civil Registry in Pondicherry. 12

In the Ministerial instructions of 12 April 1878, the French Government directed that Mayors should be chosen in future from among notables of the town, 13 preferably from among members of 'Conseils elus'. Accordingly in May 1878, the mayoral functions hitherto performed by the Chef du Service des Contributions in Pondicherry and by Juge de Paix in Karaikal were handed over to prominent persons residing in the area. Deputies were nominated to assist them. In the absence of specific orders from France, the functions of 'Etat-Civil' (Civil Registry) in Yanam and Mahe continued to be performed by Government officials as evident from an arrêté of 15 January 1880.

The Ministry's despatch of 20 January 1880 authorised the Administration to enhance the powers of the Mayors to pave the way for the introduction of local self-government.14 This was brought about by the arrêté of 1 March 1880 which declared the Mayor as the lawful representative of the town, and the Officier de l'Etat-Civil en chef des Bureaux Furopéens et Indiens for the whole establishment. He was by right a member of the 'Comité de Bienfaisance' and 'Comité des Fabriques' and also of the various committees on public instruction, sanitation, prisons and public health. Following the arrêté of 1 March 1880. Hecquet, a member of 'Conseil Général' was nominated Mayor of Pondicherry. Alfred Erny, a merchant, became the Mayor of Karaikal.15 The Ministre de la Marine et de Colonies in his letter dated 12 March 1880 to the President of the French Republic stressed the need for conferring the benefits of local self-government so as to devise the whole system on the pattern obtaining in France and other colonies. The draft legislation drawn up by a special committee was considered by the Conseil Général and then approved by the Conseil privé before it was promulgated in the establishments by the arreté of 22 April 1880. The territory was divided into 10 communes viz., Pondicherry, Ozhukarai, Villiyanur, Bahur, Karaikal, Grand' Aldée, Nedungadu, Chandernagore, Mahe and Yanam.

This demarcation of the scattered chunks of the territory into ten communes was neither conducive to public harmony nor convenient for administrative purposes. Even the Conseil Général which was seized of the matter, proposed increasing the number of communes from 10 to 17, on the basis of the topography of the areas and the community of agricultural or industrial interests. Accordingly the establishments were divided into 17 communes by the décret of 25 December 1907 which was subsequently corrected by the décret of 12 February 1908 viz., Pondicherry, Ariyankuppam, Mudaliyarpettai, Ozhukarai, Bahur, Nettappakkam, Villiyanur, Tirubhuvanai, Karaikal, Tirunallar, Nedungadu, Kottuchcheri, Grand' Aldée, Niravi, Chandernagore, Yanam and Mahe.

Keeping in view the limited resources of the municipalities the décret of 12 March 1880 had listed only some of the items of compulsory expenditure to be incurred by the municipalities. In fact expenditure on certain compulsory items which ought to have been legitimately the concern of the municipalities was actually met by the Administration. Even then the municipalities did not make any serious effort to increase their resources. It was under these circumstances that in 1912 the municipalities were made eligible for a share in some of the direct and indirect taxes. 16 The Administration also continued the practice of granting 'subventions' to the municipalities although this was agreed to only for a maximum period of 10 years then. On the other hand the municipalities were required to pay for some of the services touching upon public health, police, education, etc., performed by the Administration. The décret of 2 March 1925 made it obligatory on the part of the municipalities to bear a portion of the expenditure incurred by the Administration towards water supply.17 In 1947 the headquarters of Tirubhuvanai Commune was shifted to Mannadipattu and since then it came to be known as Mannadipattu Commune, 18

After merger: At the time of merger the subject of local administration was dealt with by the 'Bureau des Affaires Politiques' and municipal administration was governed by the décret of 12 March 1880. On 10 June 1955 articles 4 to 8 and 10 and 11 of the décret were repealed by the State of Pondicherry (Municipal Councils Decree Amendment) Order, 1955. 19 By this Order, all references to the Governor or the Governor in Privy Council were declared as references to Chief Commissioner. All references to Conceil d'Etat and the Minister of Colonies were declared as references to the Central Government The continuance of this system after de jure transfer was facilitated by section 4 of the Pondicherry (Administration) Act, 1962.

The Local Administration Department came to be constituted only on 1 July 1963 to deal with all matters connected with local administration at the secretariat level. The Inspectorate of Municipal Councils and Local Boards was formed in June 1967, to exercise control over the Municipalities. The Pondicherry Municipal Councils (Election) Act, 1966, brought into force on 2 February 1966, provided for reservation of seats for scheduled castes in the Municipal Councils. While Pondicherry and Karaikal had 18 and 14 seats respectively, the remaining 14 communes in the Territory had 12 seats each making a total of 200 seats out of which 37 seats were reserved for scheduled castes. The Pondicherry Municipal Decree (Amendment) Act. 1966 amended article 40 of the 1880 décret in order to regulate the recruitment and conditions of service of municipal employees in accordance with rules framed by the Administration. The Pondicherry Municipal Decree (Amendment) Act. 1967 empowered the District Magistrate to fix the bus stand fees which was hitherto the concern of the municipalities under article 44 of the 1880 décret. The Pondicherry Municipal Decree (Amendment) Act, 1968, empowered the Administration to appoint a commission to replace the Municipal Council when dissolved. The Pondicherry Municipal Decree (Amendment) Act, 1970 which came into force on 9 July 1970, provided for the adoption of regional languages as the official language for carrying on the deliberations of the Municipal Councils. Except for these minor changes the municipal administration continued to be carried on according to French laws.

In the meanwhile, the resources position of the municipalities came under examination when the municipal employees started an agitation in 1970 for better emoluments. The Administration constituted a Commission next year to review the financial resources of the municipalities and to suggest ways and means to increase their revenues. This Committee submitted its report to the Government in May 1971.

Reorganisation of 1973: While in Pondicherry the decree of 12 March 1880 which provided for a common structure of municipal administration for urban as well as rural areas continued to be in force, in India the Panchayat system was introduced under which village administration came to be carried out through people's representatives from the village level to the block level. Moreover the old French law had become so out-dated, that its replacement by a new law to meet the requirements of the changed circumstances was felt necessary. Moreover the municipalities remained stagnant, the establishment charges had increased gradually to reach almost half of the income of

municipalities. Adequate funds were not left to meet even the essential as well as basic needs of the population. Further, much of the powers conferred on the municipalities by the various French laws ceased to have effect as these laws had been replaced by Indian laws. As a result the Municipal administration as conceived in the XIX century stood eroded substantially. Hence the system was replaced by the Pondicherry Village and Commune Panchayats Act, 1973 and the Pondicherry Municipalities Act, 1973 respectively to govern village and town administration. Both these Acts came into force from 26 January 1974, and provisions of the Acts were sought to be enforced in stages. The Mayors and Deputy Mayors ceased to function with effect from that date. All executive powers of the Mayors stood transferred to the Commissioners.

Under the reorganised set-up, the Inspectorate of Local Bodies was converted into a Directorate headed by a Director to deal with administrative matters. He was conferred the ex-officio secretariat status with two Deputy Directors to deal with 'Municipal Administration' and 'Rural Development' respectively.

The Pay and Accounts Officer, Pondicherry, was appointed as the auditor of the accounts of receipts and expenditure of the funds of the Municipal Councils as well as Commune Panchayats. It will be his responsibility to constitute the Municipal Funds and Commune Panchayat Funds in accordance with the provisions of the Acts.

# II. Municipalities and Commune Panchayats

Following the introduction of the Pondicherry Municipalities Act, four municipalities came into being viz., for Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam towns. The jurisdiction of the Pondicherry Municipality extended to Pondicherry and Mudaliyarpettai Communes which stood amalgamated to form a single municipality. The entities of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam Communes formed the Municipalities of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. While Pondicherry Municipality was designated as a Selection Grade Municipality, Karaikal and Mahe belonged to Grade II and Yanam belonged to Grade III. Under the new law, all functions excluding those which were assigned to the Chairman i.e., those which were hitherto exercised by the Mayor appointed under the

municipal décret came to be exercised by the Commissioner. The Mayors were also relieved of their day-to-day administrative responsibilities enabling them to be in greater contact with the public. A Commissioner (Selection Grade) was appointed as the executive head of the Pondicherry Municipality. The Karaikal Municipality was headed by a Commissioner Grade I. The municipalities of Mahe and Yanam were headed by Commissioners Grade III.

Under the new dispensation there are only eleven Commune Panchayats viz., Ozhukarai (with 12 members), Ariyankuppam (11), Villiyanur (12) Mannadipattu (12), Nettappakkam (12), Bahur (12), Tirunallar (12) Thirumalarajanpattinam (4), Niravi (5), Nedungadu (8) and Kottuchcheri (5). The territorial limits of these Commune Panchayats are coterminous with the respective communes. Each of the eleven commune panchayats is headed by a Commissioner.

The Council became the governing body of the Municipality as well as the Commune Panchayats with powers to issue directions to the executive authority. The Chairman, as the presiding officer of the Municipal Council/ Commune Panchayat represents the Council in the day-to-day administration of the Municipality/Commune Panchayat and is entitled to be kept continuously informed of the working of the executive authority. The Commissioner has to consult the Chairman in respect of all matters on which such consultation would be conducive to the smooth working of these bodies. Commissioner is to function under the general control of the Council and to carry out all the lawful decisions and directions, he is expected to discharge all the executive functions vested in him, at his full discretion. Whenever the Commissioner feels that a particular direction is against the law, he is entitled to make a reference to the Government and seek its orders. To sum up, the Commissioner is the repository of all executive powers under the Act. No official correspondence between the Municipality/Commune Panchayat and the Government shall be conducted except through the Chairman.

Any measure which is likely to promote public safety, health, or the convenience of the inhabitants of the locality generally comes within the ambit of the functions of the Council. Except in matters where it involves relaxation of any provision of law, rule and in respect of matters which may be subject to restriction and control by the Government, no resolution of the Municipal Council would require the prior approval of the Government. However, an authenticated copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the

Municipal Council, Commune Panchayat Council or Village Panchayat is to be forwarded by the Chairman or the President, as the case may be, to the Director within three days of the date of meeting. There was no provision in the old law either for a member to resign from the Council or to remove the Mayor through a motion of no confidence. The new measure provided for such exigencies.

The décret of 1880 did not spell out in detail the type of resources to be made available to municipalities after taxation, though article 46 of the decret conferred on them the power to levy taxes, rates and fees without any well defined scheme of distribution of taxing powers between the Government and the municipalities. 20 The municipalities are empowered to levy tax which are compulsory. In some cases the tax may be imposed with the approval of the Government. The municipalities could frame their own budgets within the limits of their own financial resources. Under the old law the budget had to be approved by the Government and even after the budget is approved, government sanction was necessary for expenditures exceeding Rs. 500. All which were lawfully and actually levied prior to the commencement of the Act continued to be in force. The municipalities had no powers to collect the taxes due to them. This was attended to by the Revenue Department. The responsibility for the collection of taxes which was hitherto under the control of the 'Receveur Municipal' stood transferred to the Commissioner. Under the new dispensation, taxes are collected by the municipalities themselves. Only such taxes the proceeds of which were assigned the Administration to the local bodies such as house tax and land revenue surcharge, continued to be levied and collected by the Revenue Department. The Commune Panchayats may levy any of the taxes leviable by Village Panchayats under section 127 of the Village and Commune Panchayats Act, but the rate of tax leviable by the Commune Panchayat within the limits of the village panchayat should not exceed 25% of the prescribed maximum rates. The commune panchayats may also levy entertainment tax and tax on cinematograph exhibitions.

Under the old system, the qualification, method of recruitment, etc. of municipal employees were not specifically prescribed. Moreover no uniform criteria were followed in these matters by the municipalities. The new law prescribed a uniform procedure for the determination of conditions of service, etc.

In so far as the 'Etat-Civil' and the disposal of the dead were concerned, the provisions of the French Civil Code continued to be in force and any reference to the Mayor or to any other functionary under the French law came to be construed as reference to the Chairman or the corresponding functionary under the Act.

The administration of the 'Comité de Bienfaisance' continued to vest with the municipalities.

## Functions:

The municipalities are responsible for lighting public streets, places and buildings, keeping them tidy and free from all encumbrances, controlling and stopping dangerous trades and practices, constructing and maintaining burial grounds, markets, slaughter houses, cattle sheds, etc. They are also responsible for water supply, drainage and sewerage, disposal of night soil, preparation of compost manure, providing relief for destitutes and also in times of scarcity, for providing preventive and remedial measures during outbreak of epidemics, etc.

As part of their optional duties the municipalities also provide funds for laying new streets, the establishment and maintenance of libraries, museums, lunatic asylums, gymnasiums, houses for destitute and disabled persons, town halls, municipal offices, shops, dharmasalas, rest houses, theatres, etc., acquisition and maintenance of grazing grounds, setting up of dairies or farms for the supply of milk, providing transport facilities to the public, conducting census or surveys, etc., control of dogs, and providing suitable places for the location of hotels and other establishments like laundries, barber-saloons, etc. within the municipal limits.

The functions and responsibilities of panchayats are classified as mandatory, discretionary and agency functions. The construction and maintenance of commune panchayat roads, shops and markets, etc., the establishment of maternity and child welfare centres, the improvement of agriculture and agricultural stocks, the provision of cottage industries and house sites, execution of minor irrigation works and community development programmes, taking preventive as well as remedial measures against epidemics are the main duties of the Commune Panchayats.

Village Panchayats are responsible for the construction and maintenance of village panchayat roads, public lighting, drainage, general cleanliness of the area, maintenance of burial and burning grounds, ponds and tanks, provision of protected water for drinking purposes, etc.

## Financial resources:

The sources of revenue for the municipalities may be classified as tax income, assigned revenue and non-tax revenue. Property tax, professional tax (municipal patente), mahamai, entertainment tax, tree tax and other minor taxes fall under the group of tax income. The cess on land revenue and vehicle tax, the compensation payable under the Motor Vehicles (Taxation) Act, and the non-statutory grant under the scheme 'Aid to Local Bodies' constitute the assigned revenue.

Such sundry items as market fees, fishing rentals, ferry charges, yield from lease of usufructs of trees, income from land and properties and other miscellaneous receipts constitute the non-tax revenue of the municipalities.

During the year 1968 the ordinary income of all the communes was Rs. 37,59,768 and the revenue expenditure amounted to Rs. 32,63,066. Their ordinary revenue from taxation formed 69.6 per cent, non-tax revenue 15.6 per cent while grants and assigned revenue from the administration amounted to 14.8 per cent. A statement showing details of resources covering the above three categories for 1966, 1970 and 1974 is given below:

SI. No.	Name of the municipality			Total ordinary revenue					
140.				1966	1970		1974		
				Rs.	Rs.	P.	Rs.	Ρ.	
1. P	ondicherry	(M)		17,15,041	26.66.017.66		26 22 720 26		
2. N	1udaliyarpettai	(M)	••	1,36,604	20,00,917	26,66,917.66		20,23,720.30	
3. O	<b>)z</b> hukarai	(C.P.)		70,864	54,800	00.	1,44,728	3.00	
4. A	Ariyankuppam	(")		63,582	68,469	0.08	1,55,306	5.27	

SI. No.	Name of the			Total	ordinary revenue		
NO.	municipality			1966	<b>19</b> 70	1974	
				Rs.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	
5.	Villiyanur	(C.P.)		92,888	1,67,626.20	2,98,177.47	
6.	Mannadipattu	(")		39,845	94,916.00	2,60,670.00	
7.	Nettappakkam	(")		64,470	59,817.00	1,34,084.00	
8.	Bahur	(")		1,64,655	57,616.00	2,60,104.00	
9.	Karaikal	(M)	et a	4,76,773	<b>4,</b> 29,404.29	6,23,225.90	
10.	Kottuchcheri	(C.P.)		48,772	35,748.56	41,643.95	
11.	Tirunallar	(")		1,12,058	1,11,254.22	1,46,519.84	
12.	Nıravi	(").		62,104	54,958.60	76,382.33	
13.	Tirumalarajanpattinam	(")		50,604	70,199.32	1,00,459.12	
14.	Nedungadu	( ,, ) ,,,	ueles	84,622	57,564.34	1,01,331.23	
15.	Mahe	(M)	• •	1,30,004	3,629.47	1,57,051.63	
16.	Yanam	(")		37,402	45,854.00	78,520.00	

C.P. = Commune Panchayat.

Property tax contributed about 38.3 per cent of the total tax income of all communes. The next important source of tax revenue was *mahamai* which contributed 32 per cent of tax income. Income from entertainment tax came next with 8.2 per cent. The income from tree tax amounted to 7.3 per cent. The per capita income of the municipalities (in 1968) stood at Rs. 10.2 out of which tax income alone amounted to Rs. 7.1. The amount received in the form of grant was

M. = Municipality.

Rs. 1.5 per capita as against Rs. 2.32 for All India as early as in 1960-61. This showed that assistance from grant to the municipalities was very meagre. The study made by the 1971 Commission showed that there was considerable gap between the needs and resources at the disposal of all the municipalities except Pondicherry. According to the Commission this was so, because the cost of provision of civic amenities had increased considerably in the context of the accelerated pace of industrialisation and urbanisation set in motion by large-scale development activities in the Territory and under-utilisation of taxing resources as well as reluctance on the part of municipalities to explore new avenues of resources.<sup>21</sup> According to this Commission most of the municipalities did not fully utilise their taxation powers in an adequate manner After having considered the existing tax measures, the Commission suggested the imposition of the following levies to augment the financial resources of the municipalities:

- 1. Surcharge on stamp duty.
- 2. Taxes on mineral rights.
- 3. Taxes on profession, trade and employment.
- 4. Taxes on motors (pump sets).

Property tax: The property tax or what is called as tax on buildings occupies a pivotal position in the system of finances of the municipalities in the Territory. It is levied on all types of buildings except those especially exempted within the municipal limits. The government which collected the property tax on behalf of the municipalities credited the amount to the municipal account retaining a small percentage of the total receipts, i.e., from 1 per cent to 3 per cent as collecting charges.

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The tax was levied at a flat rate of 12 per cent of the annual rental value in the communes of Pondicherry and Karaikal and at the rate of 10 per cent of the annual rental value in respect of other communes. Neither a maximum nor a minimum rate was prescribed nor any lighting or conservancy rate was levied in addition to general property tax as was done by local bodies in some of the States in India.

The basis of assessment was the annual rental value of buildings which represented the gross annual rent at which they were expected to be let on rent from month to month or year to year, less a deduction for repairs for which there was no statutory sanction. 22 In actual practice, a certain percentage of the rent was deducted from the gross rent to be determined by law. Although the statutory powers of levy and collection of property tax were vested with the Government, some sort of participation of elected representatives in the machinery for assessment was provided. The work of assessment of rental value of buildings subject to levy was made by a committee consisting of the Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar (Headquarters) of the area, a representative of the Municipal Council and two prominent citizens designated by the Municipal Council. Objections against assessment made by the committee were heard or a period of 15 days from the date of publication in the concerned Mairie and determined by the same committee whose decision thereon was final. However there were provisions in the arrêté for a judicial civil appeal in the matter of assessment. The revision of assessment was triennial. A statement of house tax collected for the years 1966, 1970 and 1974 is given below:

SI. N	o. Name of the mu	nicipality		1966	1970	1974
		l Pin		Rs	Rs. P.	Rs P.
1	Pondicherry	• • 4	प्रमेश जा	3,70,397	0 21 726 92	10,52,144.84
2	Mudaliyarpettai	• •		20,882	-9,31,720.62	10,32,144.04
3	Ozhukarai			4,229	75,000 00	1,01,317.92
4	Ariyankuppam	• •		1,782	13,414.75	14,525.50
5	Villiyanur			10,820	13,493.33	24,179.38
6	Mannadipattu	• •		*****	8,000.00	11,000.00
7	Nettappakkam			4,691	7,717.00	15,442.00
8	Bahur	• •		4,096	11,205.00	16,728.00
9	Karaikal	••		80.652	1,28,576.37	1,61,926.90
10	Kottuchcheri			3,053	7,369.25	4,915.71

Sl. No	Name of the mur	nicipali _	ty	1966	1970	1974
			<del> </del>	Rs.	Rs.P.	Rs.P.
11	Tirunallar			9,947	11,366.25	14,868.80
12.	Niravi			2,244	8,859.94	219.50
13	Tirumalarajanpattinam			5,713	18,041.50	<del></del>
14.	Nedungadu			4,255	8,838.27	7,751.60
15.	Mahe			28,435	35,201.10	1,23,706.90
16.	Yanam			3,127	12,242.94	31,805.51
					•	

The Commission which studied the structure of resources of the municipalities felt that the system of property tax suffered from two defects, viz., gross undervaluation in assessment of annual value and improper valuation due to lack of training, lack of guidelines for assessment of rental value and delay in assessment and collection. In order to remedy the situation, the Commission suggested the creation of a Central Valuation Organization in the Territory.23 The Commission further recommended that the valuation of properties may be assessed by a Special Tahsildar exclusively appointed for the purpose in consonance with the recommendation of the Taxation Enquiry Committee for the creation of a Central Valuation Organization and that annual rental value may be fixed with reference to the reasonable rent computed by comparison with the trend of rate prevailing in similar buildings in the same area.

Factory buildings and cinema halls, etc., may be assessed on the basis of 'gross annual receipts'. As for owner occupied buildings it suggested that they could be assessed at 75 per cent of the rental value of similar houses.

NELLE GUE

Entertainment tax: The entertainment tax was exclusively earmarked for municipalities even during the French period. The rate of levy of tax on each payment for admission to any entertainment which varied from commune to commune, ranged from 10 to 25 per cent of the total face value of entrance tickets. In Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam Municipalities the proceeds realised therefrom were apportioned between the municipalities and the Welfare Committee (Comité de Bienfaisance) in the manner prescribed by Government, while in the case of other municipalities the entire income went to the municipal funds. At present the Administration is not entitled to get any share out of the proceeds of the tax.

The following table will give an idea of the proceeds of entertainment tax during 1966, 1970 and 1974:

SI.No	Name of the munic	cipality		1966	1970	1974
- /		· ·		Rs.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1.	Pondicherry			50,746	<b>^ 10 11</b> 105	
2.	Mudaliyarpettai	• •	••	_ }	3,10,414.95	<b>7</b> ,6 <b>5</b> ,1 <b>3</b> 5. <b>45</b>
3.	Ozhukarai		- •	25,145	22,000.00	2,25,603.10
4.	Ariyankuppam			9,475	14,248.50	27,239.13
5.	Villiyanur		F.	13,657	18,245.57	38,437.00
6.	Mannadipattu	<b>(2.</b> )		13,840	20,000.00	33,000.00
7.	Nettappakkam			11,090	11,877.00	24,673.00
8.	Bahur		HH	2,515	4,592.00	34,915.00
9.	Karaikal	••		<u> </u>	Nil	1,47,779.91
10.	Kottuchcheri				192.68	3,287.40
11.	Tirunallar			8,245	12,816.03	16,037.23
12.	Niravi	• •	• •	<del></del>	Nil	Nil
13.	Tirumalarajanpattinam			5,929	10,582.02	20,622.00
14.	Nedungadu			567	3,510.54	13,891.97
15.	Mahe				Nil	15,356.43
16.	Yanam			3,022	9,969.36	18,646.04

With regard to the entertainment tax, the Commission suggested the maximum rate to be enhanced to 25 per cent in the case of urban municipalities like Karaikal, Mudaliyarpettai and Ozhukarai and 20 per cent in the case of other municipalities.

Tree tax: The system of levying a tax on trees tapped for toddy was in vogue for many years in the Territory. This constituted one of the major sources of revenue of municipalities. In certain communes like Ariyankuppam where the number of coconut trees under toddy extraction was very large, the yield from the tax was the highest. The rate of levy varied from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 per coconut tree and the municipalities were instructed in 1971 by the Government to enhance the rate to Rs. 5 per tree.

A statement of revenue derived therefrom during 1966, 1970 and 1974 is given below:

Sl. N	lo. Name of the municip	ality		1966	1970	1974
1.	Pondicherry			Rs.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
2.	Mudaliyarpettai	Æ	T.	6,962	14,092.25	12,624.75
3.	Ozhukarai			<b>2</b> ,634	9,000.00	32,250.00
4.	Ariyankuppam			10,447	6,260.00	30,867.00
5.	Villiyanur			966	6,810.00	22,135.00
6.	Mannadipattu		77.	310	4,000.00	12,000.00
7.	Nettappakkam			7,260	3,066.00	4,956.00
8.	Bahur	4	न्यम्ब ः	7,976	Nil	13,004.00
9.	Karaikal			9,725	18,169.00	6,848.00
10.	Kottuchcheri			2,998	12,968.00	5,843.00
11.	Tirunallar			14,893	50,205.00	42,384.00
12.	Niravi			17,259	34,721.00	28,721.67
13.	Tirumalarajanpattinam			6,202	7,620.00	9,575.00
14.	Nedungadu			4,657	15,563.00	19,096.00
15.	Mahe			4,710	Nil	2,340.00
16.	Yanam				Nil	Nil

The Commission also suggested that the tree tax levied both by the Administration and the municipalities be collected jointly and an amount may be assigned to municipalities in proportion to their demand from out of the total proceeds realised.

Grant-in-aid: In the context of the national policy to promote democratic decentralisation and enlargement of the functions of the local bodies. the responsibility of municipalities to cater to the growing social needs of urban and rural population increased in the Territory. This problem acquired new dimensions in the wake of large scale development activities generated through the Five Year Plans. As a result of these developments, the municipalities encountered some difficulties in discharging even their primary functions with their slender resources. In the circumstances, there was no other alternative for the Government than to render them financial assistance by way of grant-in-aid, in such fields of activities as were required to be supplemented by Government intervention. It was against this background that the scheme known as 'Aid to Local Bodies' was launched in the year 1957 to help communes take up schemes like road works, construction of water tanks, local development works, etc. The procedure followed with regard to the grant-in-aid was not so systematic in the beginning. There are no standing orders to determine the conditions and mode of grant. However, of late, the quantum of grant is determined on the basis of the population of the communes and the rate of their performance in respect of 'aid' sanctioned earlier. The grant of loan is governed by the Local Authorities (Loan) Act, 1914 and rules made thereunder and the instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time.

Such grants-in-aid and loans were granted to undertake development works, such as laying and metalling of roads, construction of latrines, dhobi ghats, kalyanamandapams, markets, drains and gutters, overhead tanks, laying of pipe lines, etc.

During the Third Plan period, a sum of Rs. 29.00 lakhs was given by way of loans and grants to local bodies. The assistance was, by and large, for road development, provision of water supply, construction of municipal markets, bus stands, cremation grounds, bridges and culverts, drains, bathrooms, lavatories, etc.

During the two years ended March 1968, an amount of Rs. 11.54 lakhs was given by way of grants-in-aid and Rs. 0.97 lakh by way of loans. The corresponding actual expenditure for 68-69 was Rs. 4,64,271 and Rs. 60,000 and for 1969-70 it was Rs. 6,00 lakhs and Rs. 1.00 lakh respectively. In the Fourth Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs was provided under 'Aid to Local Bodies' out of which Rs. 25.00 lakhs was earmarked for grants-in-aid and Rs. 5.00 lakhs for loans.

The Commission (1971) noted that the pattern of grant-in-aid to the municipalities was not related either to the resources or to the needs of the municipalities. 24 It further pointed out that the scale of assistance sanctioned to municipalities was meagre and suggested that the total assistance released should not be less than Rs. 3 per capita as in the Union Territory of Goa.

The surcharge on land revenue ranged from 20 per cent to 40 per cent. The Commission recommended that the maximum rate of 40 per cent should be levied in favour of the municipalities. As for sharing the Motor Vehicles Tax the Commission recommended that 25 per cent of the receipts from this source should be allocated to local bodies. The Pondicherry Municipality is the only municipality spending about Rs. 80,000 for running some primary schools. The Commission viewed that the entire expenditure may be reimbursed by the Government.

Continuing the practice followed during the pre-merger days, the Department sanctioned grants to 22 sports and cultural and religious institutions, the chief amongst them are indicated below:

- (i) St. Joseph de Cluny Convent.
- (ii) Institute of Foreign Missions.
- (iii) Orphanage of 'Notre Dame des Anges'.
- (iv) Karaikal Ammayyar Temple.
- (v) Villiyanur Tirukameswarar Temple.

Non-tax revenue: The nature of non-tax revenue vary from commune to commune. It formed an insignificant percentage to the total ordinary revenue in the case of communes like Mudaliyarpettai, Tirunallar, Niravi, Nedungadu and Mahe. In the case of Mannadipattu and Yanam, non-tax revenue constituted a significant percentage.

# Expenditure:

The expenditure pattern of the communes was such that works programme formed the most important item of expenditure involving 23.6 per cent. of the total ordinary expenditure. Expenditure on public health and sanitation ranked second. Public works which included roads and paths, public safety and convenience like street lighting and miscellaneous general administration are the remaining heads of expenditure in the order of importance. The item of 'Water supply' does not come within the purview of the municipalities.

The per capita expenditure of municipalities during 1968 worked out as follows:

	Name of the Municipality				Per capita expendit		
						Rs. P.	
1.	Pondicherry		M-)			13.7	
2.	Mudaliyarpettai	(C	P.)	(F)		2.2	
3.	Ariyankuppam	( C.	P. )			1.9	
4.	Ozhukarai	( ) ,	, D			1.1	
5.	Villiyanur	(,	, )	• •	• •	0.4	
6.	Mannadipattu	( ,	, )	<u>.</u>		0.5	
7.	Nettappakkam	( <sub>1</sub> )				0.5	
8.	Bahur	(,	, )			0.8	
9.	Karaikal	( M	[ )			6.4	
10.	Kottuchcheri	( C.	P. )			1.3	
11.	Tirunallar	( ,,	, )			1.7	
12.	Tirumalarajanpattinam	( ,,	)			1.4	
13.	Nedungadu	( ,,	. )	••	••	2.7	
14.	Niravi	( ,,	)			1.5	
15.	Mahe	( M	1)			1.6	
16.	Yanam	( M	<b>(</b> )		••	2.91	

The 1971 Commission which compared the per capita expenditure of the communes with the per capita expenditure suggested by the Town and Country Planning Organisation for maintaining the services at minimum levels of standards came to the conclusion that there was a wide gap between the needs and resources.

The various items of expenditure of the communes were classified as compulsory and optional. For example, expenditure on the maintenance of town hall and buildings allotted to the municipal office, printing charges, subscription, pension, repairs to municipal buildings, maintenance of graveyards and cremation grounds, payment of debts, vaccination charges and maintenance of municipal records, etc. were treated as compulsory items of expenditure.

## Budget:

The financial transactions of the municipalities were mainly governed by the provisions contained in the arrêté dated 13 August 1912 25 followed by the arrêté dated 2 December 1912, promulgating the décret of 29 October 1912 26 read with the décret of 30 December 1912 on financial administration of the colonies.

The arrêté of 13 August 1912 dealt with the preparation of the budget, the basis for easting the receipts, the conditions under which loans can be raised, prevention of deficit budgeting, procedure for modifications of provisions, preparation of supplementary budget, absence of budget, and the effect of late approval. These elements have been touched upon in the decree of 30 December 1912, a summary of which is given below:

The financial year began on 1 January and ended on 31 December of the same year. However three months time was granted to close the accounts by 31 March of the subsequent year. The budget of each commune was prepared by the Mayor, discussed by the Municipal Council and approved by the Governor in Council. The Budget Estimates were discussed and approved before the beginning of the financial year whereas the supplementary budget was discussed and approved in the course of the year concerned. The Municipal Council may make provision in the budget for unforeseen expenditure which may be incurred by the Mayor during emergencies. The Mayor should however inform the Governor immediately thereafter and the Municipal Council at the first ordinary session held after incurring such expenditure.

Although the Mayors held the accounts of the communes, the receipts and expenditure passed through the 'Receveur Municipal' who paid for the items of expenditure ordered by the Mayor.

## Auditing:

The annual accounts of the municipal administration were submitted to the Municipal Councils before being forwarded to the Governor for onward transmission to the authority competent to scrutinize them. Whenever the amount of ordinary receipts of the preceding three years exceeded 30,000 francs\* the accounts of the communes were subjected to the audit of 'Cour de Comptes' and in all other cases the accounts went to the 'Conseil privé'.

The accounts to be audited by the 'Cour de Comptes' were forwarded by the Governor with all vouchers in the month of September so that they could reach the 'Cour' before 15 November. The other accounts were audited before the close of the year by the Privy Council to which the matter was referred before 30 September.

## Grant of licences:

The décret of 10 May 1882 governed the procedure and conditions for the grant of licences to set up industries within the limits of communes.

Before going into the detailed procedure followed for the grant of licence, it may be noted that the object was to ensure the proper location of the industrial units so as not to create unhygienic or insanitary conditions in the area. In other words, no industrial establishment which was likely to affect the peace and tranquility of the locality or endanger life and property was allowed to come up in the area.

According to article 6 of the decret, on receipt of an application from an intending industrialist, a 'commodo and incommodo' inquiry was held, inviting objections, if any, from the residents of the locality. Even after completing these formalities, the Government granted licence only to those industrial units which were not objected to by the Sanitary Commission (Commission Sanitaire and the Health Board (Conseil d'Hygience de Salubrite Publique). Even now the same procedure is followed although at present the licence is issued by the Governor on the recommendation of the Secretary, Local Administration Department.

<sup>\*</sup> Modified as 100,000 francs, vide J.O. 1924, p. 500.

#### Secours Local:

The Representative Assembly by its déliberation of 11 September 1950 authorised the grant of compassionate allowance or what is called 'Secours This was given effect to by the arrêtés of 11 December 1950 In accordance with the said déliberation, Secours de and 20 May 1952. première nécessité are granted to families of deceased pre-merger employees. Secours eventuel are granted to persons who had rendered some meritorious service in the past but are left in indigent circumstances. The former is sanctioned for a maximum period of three years. It may either be reduced or cancelled according to the availability of funds and improvement in the financial condition of the beneficiary. The third type of assistance is known as 'Secours temporaire' which are sanctioned to municipal employees who had not put in the requisite qualifying service to be eligible for pension in accordance with the French Pension Rules and ex-members of the Municipal Council having completed a tenure of five years or more and in the event of their death, to the widows or orphaned children. Such financial assistance to government employees who retired without eligibility for pension and to members of representative bodies suspended during 1968-69 was however resumed the following year.

These 'Secours' are granted on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee set up for the purpose every year.

## Municipal employees:

In 1971, there were 1,514 persons employed by all the 16 Communes in this Territory.27 The staffing pattern of municipal employees, their workload, pay scales, etc. came in for review by the Commission constituted by the Administration on 13 February 1971. 28 This Commission which came to the conclusion that quite a number of posts were surplus suggested ways and means to accommodate them against future vacancies as a result of retirement, resignation or new creation.

The Commission also found several defects in the pay structure. On the one hand the resources were so meagre and the expenditure on establishment so high that most of the communes were left with any surplus to incur any worth while developmental expenditure. The Commission also found that service conditions varied from commune to commune. A rationalisation of this state of affairs was therefore found necessary, so as to have a uniform set of rules for all municipal employees as in the case of most of the states. After hearing the representatives of the municipal employees and the Municipal Councils the Commission recommended that so far as leave, pension, discipline and conduct and medical reimbursement were concerned, the same set of rules that were applicable to Government servants should apply to all the employees covered by the 'Statut personnel'. This benefit was applied only to the regular employees of the municipalities with option to such employees to continue in the old scales.

In the case of workers who included all persons other than those hitherto covered by the 'Statut personnel' applicable to municipal employees, it was recommended that in respect of pension, retirement, superannuation and provident fund, the same set of rules that were extended to the municipal employees should apply to them also, subject to the condition that only 80 per cent of their past services should be reckoned for the purpose of computation of pension, gratuity, etc., they being entitled to 'Secours'. The commission further recommended an additional ten days leave in a year as sick leave, to be availed of on the strength of a medical certificate from a competent medical Officer. All municipal workers were to be provided with free medical aid. Female workers were assured of two months' maternity leave for every confinement. The Commission further recommended that such of those daily rated staff who were not declared as surplus or part-time should be brought into a regular scale prospectively.

## Village Panchayats:

The Pondicherry Village and Commune Panchayats Act provided for the formation of Village Panchayats in the Territory. With effect from 26 January 1974, the date on which the Act was brought into force, the eleven Commune Panchayats were divided into 105 Village Panchayats and the area of each Village Panchayat was determined.29 The number of Village Panchayats stood increased to 143 as per G. O. Ms. No. 95 dated 5 May 1975. These Village Panchayats are to be represented in the concerned Commune Panchayat by a representative each.

According to the provisions of the Act, these Village Panchayats will be responsible for the construction and maintenance of public roads within their area, burial grounds, drainage, cleanliness of streets, provision of public latrines, water for drinking and other purposes and for taking measures to promote public hygiene. They are also responsible for planting trees along public roads, provision of lights, for the opening and maintenance of public markets, public landing places, slaughter houses, reading rooms etc., and for the control of fairs and festivals and for the establishment and maintenance of wireless receiving sets, parks, playgrounds, etc.

The Village Panchayats are empowered to levy house tax, profession tax, a duty on certain transfers of immovable property situated within the jurisdiction of the village panchayat in the form of additional stamp duty, a duty on toddy levied in the form of additional excise duty, a tax on agricultural land for a specific purpose, a tax on fairs and festivals, a tax on the village produce sold in the village by weight, measurement or number, fee for the use of poromboke or communal land, fee for market and cart stand, a fee for the supply of water, etc.

Given below is the commune-wise list of 143 Village Panchayats in the Territory:

## I, ARIYANKUPPAM COMMUNE

1.	Ariyankuppam	7.	Purnankuppam
2.	Kakayantope	8.	Nallavadu
3.	Virampattinam	9,	Andiarpalayam
4.	Manaveli	10.	Abhishekapakkam
5.	Nonanguppam	11.	Thimmanayakanpalayam
6.	Tavalakuppam	SENTE SHE	

## II. OZHUKARAI COMMUNE

1.	Alankuppam	8.	Kadirkamam
2.	Periakalapet	9.	Vimakavundanpalayam
3.	Chinnakalapet	10.	Dhanwantarinagar
4.	Pillaichavadi	11.	Arumattapuram
5.	Dharmapuri	12.	Ozhukarai
6.	Muttirapalaiyam	13.	Reddiyarpalaiyam
7.	Shanmuhkapuram	14.	Ellupillaichavadi

15.	Poomiampet	10	The state of
	<u>-</u>	19.	
16.	Kavundanpalaiyam	20.	Pakkamudiyanpet
17.	Saram	21.	Laspettai
18.	Narimedu	22.	Karuvadikkuppam
	ш.	VILLIYANUR	COMMUNE
1.	S <b>e</b> darappattu	12.	Sattamangalam
2.	Karasur	13.	Mangalam
3.	Tondamanattam	C 12014.	Uruvaiyar
4.	Ramanathapuram	15.	Perungalur
5.	Pillaiyarkuppam	16.	Thirukanji
6.	Poraiyur	17.	Kurumbettai
7.	Gudappakkam	18.	Sultanpettai
8.	Agaram	19. सन्यामहा जय	Odiyambattu
9.	Sendanattam	20.	Kanuvapet
10.	Ariyur	21.	Villiyanur
11.	Sivarantagam		
	IV. M	ANNADIPATTU (	COMMUNE
1.	Manalipet	5.	Mannadipattu
2.	Kunichampattu	6.	Sombattu
3.	Settippattu	7.	Vadanur-Puranasingapalayam
4.	Tirukkanur	8.	Silakaripalayam

9.	Kalitirtakuppam		17.	Sellippattu
10.	Madagadippattu		18.	Kodattur
11.	Nallur		19.	Kumarapalayam
12.	Tirubhuvanai		20.	Suttukanni
13.	Tiruvandarkovil		21.	Pudukkuppam
14.	Kottapurinattam		22.	Katterikuppam
15.	Sanyasikuppam		23.	Madagadipetpalayam
16.	Sorappattu			
		ANIE	富	
	V.	NETTAPPAKKAI	м с	OMMUNE
1.	Madukkarai		7.	Kalmantapam
2.	Kariyamanikkam		8.	Embalam
3.	Suramangalam	N.	9,	Sembiapalayam
4.	Erippakkam	स्यम्ब	10,	Nattamedu
5.	Nettappakkam		11.	Korkkadu
6.	Pandacholanallur		12.	Karkilambakkam
		VI. BAHUR	СО	MMUNE

1.	Panaiyadikuppam	6.	Kudiiruppupalayai
2.	Karaiyamputtur	7.	Bahur
3.	Manamedu	8.	Irulansandi
4.	Aranganur	9.	Kuruvinattam
5.	Seliyamedu	10.	Soriyankuppam

Parikkalpattu Kirumambakkam 11. 15. 12. Krishnavaram 16. Pillaiyarkuppam Pannittittu 13. Kattukkuppam 17. Manappattu 14. VII. KOTTUCHCHERI COMMUNE 1. Puvam 4. Kottuchcheri 2. Varichchikudi Kilkasakkudi 3. Tiruvettakudi VIII. NIRAVI COMMUNE Vilidiyur Niravi Oduturai 2. Akkaravattam 3. Keezhmanai Karakalachcheri NEDUNGADU COMMUNE Nedungadu 1. Nallattur 5, Kurumbagaram Puttakudi 3. Vadakattalai 7. Melkasakkudi Ponbetti 4. X. T.R. PATTINAM COMMUNE Melaiyur Edatheru T.R. Pattinam Polagam Keezhaiyur Vaniiur 3. 6.

### XI. TIRUNALLAR COMMUNE

1. Ambagarattur

8. Sellur

2. Nallazhandur

9. Sorakkudi

3. Nallambal

10. Serumavilangai

4. Settur

11. Mel Subbarayapuram

5. Valattamangalam

12. Tirunallar

6. Karkkankudi

13. Pettai

7. Muppattankudi

Etat-Civil or Civil Registry:

The practice of registering births was introduced in Pondicherry in 1676 i.e., only two years after the arrival of the French. These registers, maintained by the missionaries, contained only details of births. 30 The original registers do not give any indication of births for the years from 1683 to 1684. 31 The registration of marriages and deaths seems to have started only from 1687. The work remained suspended between 1693-1699 i.e., during the Dutch occupation. Following the return of the missionaries to Pondicherry on 18 March 1699, registration was resumed on 15 April 1699. 32 All these years registration covered only the French, the Topas and the converted Hindus. 33

The ordinance of 31 January 1824 appears to be the first legislation on the subject. Nothing much is known about it. The absence of such registry for Hindus seems to have led to some problems and heart burning.34 Hence the arrêté of 23 June 1842, ordered registers to be opened for natives at the headquarters of the three districts of Pondicherry. Villivanur and Bahur and in the establishments of Chandernagore, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, to register births, deaths and marriages. This arrangement continued till 1855. The arrêté of 29 December 1855 introduced some changes in the Civil Registry touching upon the mode of declaration, registration, etc.35 This new arrangement continued till 1880, when by the decree of 24 April 1880, the provisions of the Civil Code relating to the registration of births and deaths were made applicable to natives with certain modifications, to suit local conditions.

Under the French Civil Code, French settlers and their descendents claimed the status of Citoyens Français. The natives of French India who were of Indian origin and known as 'sujets' did not have the same status as that of Frenchmen. But it was however open to them to adopt the French civil or political laws. For this purpose they had to renounce their personal native laws upon which they came to be called 'renoncants'. For the purpose of registration of births and deaths, 'renoncants' were governed by relevant provisions of the French civil and political laws as applicable to French citizens in the colony. The decree of 21 September 1881 promulgated by the arrêté of 3 January 1882, prescribed the procedure to be adopted for renunciation and charged the Etat-Civil with the functions to be performed under this decree.36 To sum up, the registration of births and deaths of French citizens and renonçants was governed by the French Civil Code and that of others by the decree of 24 April 1880. The Deputy Mayor performed the duties of Registrar of Births and Deaths. Entries of births and deaths in respect of 'renoncants' were made in triplicate, one to be maintained in the Mayor's office, the second to be sent to the Court and the third one to be forwarded to France. Only two copies of the registration were maintained in respect of 'sujets' for registration of births. One register was kept in the Etat-Civil and the other in the Court.

Hindus and Muslims were allowed to solemnise their marriages either before the Officer of the Civil Registry or in accordance with their religious customs. However every Brahmin, Pandaram or Kazi was responsible to report all marriages solemnised by him to the Civil Registry.

All those who belonged to the category of renonçants and sujets, were issued a booklet called Livret de famille free of cost at the time of their marriage. This booklet contained all particulars about the couple, the birth/death of their children, etc.

All declarations of death duly certified were to be filed within twenty-four hours. Permission for burial was issued by the Mayor on the strength of such certificates. As in the case of birth, only two registers of deaths were maintained, one in the Etat-Civil and the other in the Court. No inhumation or cremation could be carried out without an authorisation by an Officer of the Civil Registry or by the officials designated by the Governor.

The registration of births and deaths was compulsory. Moreover, the birth certificate was a pre-requisite for admission in schools and for entry into Government service. In keeping with the French tradition, birth certificates were made essential for obtaining several benefits such as children's allowance, school admission and employment by the state. Again under the French regime, a certificate of birth was necessary before a person could be registered as a voter. Further, even illegitimate children could be registered, as the legality of marriage was never questioned at the time of registration. As regards death registration, inheritance of property and other state benefits to the heirs of the deceased person required the production of the death certificate and this meant more accurate registration of deaths in the Territory.

Apart from the fact that the system even in the French regime had its limitation, it has shown marks of deterioration after de facto merger of the Territory with the Indian Union. Whatever incentive existed for registering births in pre-merger days has been now removed. At the same time no effective agency of the Government has been involved which will see to the proper registration of births and deaths in this Territory. As such the reliance which can be placed on the accuracy of vital statistics has become less. But it is possible to ensure that the registration is done properly if the commune organisation takes a direct interest in the matter.37

# III. Town planning

सन्यापन जयन

# Pondicherry Town:

The town of Pondicherry linked historically with the ancient 'Poduke stands immortalised by the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea as a treaty port attracting to its shore traders from distant lands. Pondicherry has also been identified with the 'Puthuvai' of 'Thirumunaipadinadu in Nadunadu'.38 Jouveau Dubreuil believes that Ozhukarai was the real town and Puthuvai was only its 'fauxbourg' or suburb. There are inscriptional evidences to show that from XI century onwards. Ozhukarai was known as Kulothunga-Chola-Nallar in Mattur Nadu named after Kulothunga-I.39 At the time of the arrival of the Portuguese in the XVI century, Ozhukarai's limit seems to have extended upto the settlement of fishermen along the sea-shore. The ruins of the Danish loge within an enclosure, an age-old temple dedicated to Lord Shiva (the original Vedapureeswarar temple), a trade oriented agglomeration in the neighbourhood, the XVII century temple of Pillayar (the Manakula Vinayagar temple) another temple and two mosques constituted the chief landmarks of Pondicherry in 1674 when François Martin landed at Kirapalaiyam with a contingent of 69 soldiers.40

The first phase of transformation of Pondicherry by way of urban development began with the outburst of war in 1676 between Sher Khan Lodi and Nazir Muhammed. As a measure of protection against the ill-effects of war, a sort of bastion was added to the loge on the north in 1676. Martin had in the meanwhile applied to his friend Sher Khan Lodi for permission to entertain some native soldiers for purposes of defence. Sher Khan not only assented to, but also made over to him three hundred of his own men. Martin entertained these men as soldiers, and made them settle down within his domain. He gave each a piece of land and encouraged them to build houses and employ themselves profitably in the manufacture of tissue and other articles for export.41 Under the protection of François Martin, new villages like the Fishermen's village, Weavers' village, Textile painters' village, Coral polishers' village sprang up.42

After prolonged negotiations François Martin secured the permission to fortify Pondicherry on payment of 5,000 chakras to the court of Gingee, 43 A fort was built about 122 metres offshore in a form of an irregular rectangle, one side broader than the other with four circular towers. It was called 'Fort Barlong'.44 Around it came up some nice single storied houses all along the shore. According to an old map, there were fourteen houses in a row. The houses of natives made of mud walls supported by wood stood scattered without orderliness and proper alignment from east to west forming a sort of street leading to the market. On the roadsides were shops where tobacco, pipes, sugar, onion and other trifles were sold. A market was held on Tuesdays when more than ten thousand people gathered, it was reported. The town had grown so much by 1683 that of all places in India where the French had settled, Pondicherry was the most advanced and the most promising.

During the Dutch occupation from 1693-1699, the church of the Jesuits was demolished. They repaired the breaches in the fort and raised a kind of a platform around it, to improve its impregnability so as to cope up with possible attacks by enemies. A fence was put up around the natives' town. It was reinforced with six redoubts, each with a canon.45 After the restitution of Pondicherry to the French in October 1699 greater attention was paid to the defence works.

As per the letters patent signed by Louis-XIV in February 1701 the Superior Council of the Indies, so far located in Surat, was transferred to Pondicherry which was made the seat of the Director or Governor General with supreme authority over all the other French factories in India. Almost immediately afterwards Martin was appointed President of the Superior Council and Directeur Général of French Affairs in India. "On arriving at his destination, Martin commenced the work of improvement...; he laid out a plan for a large town, the erection of which he soon commenced. In little more than a year, a hundred new houses had been erected, and the place presented such an improved appearance that, it is stated, a person who had only seen it in 1693 would not have recognised it..... By the same course of gentleness and straightforward dealing which he had formerly followed, he attracted them (the natives) in great numbers to the settlement, so much so that on his death, in 1706, the native town was reckoned to contain nearly forty thousand inhabitants." 46 \*

The construction of a new fort on the model of the fort at Vauban de Tourani in France was commenced in June 1702. It was christened Fort St. Louis and consecrated on 25 June 1706, just on the eve of Martin's death. Earlier he decided to fortify the town by erecting a number of bastions around the town. The work which began on 8 June 1702 continued till the time of Martin's death. In between 1702 and 1706 a chain of five bastions was built on the north, west and south of the town. (Bastion Dauphin) Bastion Bourgogne, Bastion Berry, Bastion Bretagne, Bastion de la Compagnie).47

The first successors of Martin, M.M. Dulivier and Hebert seem to have contributed little to the growth of the town. However, under Lenoir and Dumas, the town developed fast. Orders were received from France to maintain the alignments of streets and ensure the beauty of the town. All the streets were clearly demarcated, running straight and cutting each other at right angles. Streets were lined with trees. Great attention was paid to the marking of construction plots whenever permission was sought by the public.48

<sup>\*</sup>Abbé Guyon places the native population between fifty and sixty thousand. M.V. Labernadie who considers this to be an exaggeration places it at thirty thousand.

Especially under the initiative of Lenoir houses were constructed in the town with bricks and tiled roof. The rich settlers were asked to construct two storeyed houses. Pondicherry had at that time many lofty and beautiful houses the like of which could be seen nowhere else.

In 1728 when all works of an essential nature were over, construction of residential and office buildings was taken up. The erection of a choultry in 1729 near the present Grand Bazaar provided a location for Tribunal de la The prison for the natives was located close by. On the basis of a plan furnished by Father Louis, the construction of a hospital was started in 1734 south-west of the town. It was completed in June 1740. On the western side of the Governor's house a beautiful garden with five avenues was laid out. In the midst of this garden was a large and well furnished building used as a guest house for visiting dignitaries. Near this was the College of the Jesuits to whom was committed the task of educating the children of the colony. There was also a house for the priests of Missions Etrangères and another near it for the Capuchins. A new church of the Capuchins was constructed south-east of the town. The construction of Hotel des Monnaies (mint house) near the old Cuddalore Gate was completed in September 1736. One of the conditions on which the land was granted to the French required toleration of the Hindu religion; consequently the two temples which existed there remained.

The rapid increase in the population of the town and the necessity to replace the prickly hedge surrounding it, led to the erection of a wall around the town. This was built in different stages to cover the three sides of the town between 1724 and 1735. While carrying out the construction of these walls, two important changes were carried out in the layout of the town.

In the beginning the route to Madras emanated from rue Missions Etrangères. However when the Madras Road (the present Mahatma Gandhi Road) and the Valudavur Road (rue Jawaharlal Nehru) were laid around 1726 the starting point of the Madras route was shifted westward from rue Missions Etrangères to rue Madras. The other significant development was the southward expansion of the town, i.e., beyond the limits of the present Petit Canal. When this expansion took place the Company's garden outside the limits of the town (i.e., the present location of the Sacred Heart Church) came within its ambit. 49 As a result of this southward expansion the town assumed almost an oval shape.

Under Dupleix, the programme of work drawn up earlier viz., the Garden and the Hospital at Ozhukarai, the choultry and the bleaching yard near Madras Gate was completed. The erection of a wall on the east with an opening in the middle viz., Marine Gate was taken up and completed around 1747.

The foundation for a new Governor's palace was laid by Dumas in 1738. But it was left to Dupleix to complete it as an object of his predilection and a symbol of glory. It was a lofty structure adorned with a clock tower. No sooner did Dupleix occupy it, he had to vacate it. No sooner did he vacate it, its destruction followed like nemesis. Thus the old town founded by François Martin, embellished and raised to political importance by Dupleix, was destroyed by the English after the capitulation of 1761 so systematically that when Law de Lauriston arrived in 1765 to take possession of the place, there was hardly a single home which remained intact and it was difficult to recognise even the outlines of the old town amidst the heaps of ruins which lay all around. With the exception of two temples nothing remained to indicate the once flourishing and populous settlement. Law took up his residence at Ozhukarai and started reconstruction of a new town out of the debris. On hearing of the arrival of Law, Frenchmen till then scattered all over the country converged towards Pondicherry. Tents were raised, streets were cleaned up. Everyone tried to locate his former abode. New houses were built on the old basements. As a result of hard work, old streets took shape. Houses sprang up. Within five months, about 126 brick houses, 53 tiled houses, 120 thatched houses and 1959 'malabar' houses were constructed. The speed of reconstruction was almost a marvel and in the course of just three years, a whole new town was built on the ruins of the old. At the centre of the European quarters was the parade ground of the old citadel. It was now planted with trees and on its four sides were erected new Government buildings. the Governor's palace and the administrative offices, ware-houses and the barracks, Le Gentil who visited the town in 1768 tells us that along the straight drawn streets of the natives, trees were planted on both sides. In the weavers quarters, two rows of trees were planted on each side of the street enabling the weavers to work even at midday well protected from the sun.50

In this task of reconstruction Law was helped by engineer Bourcet who prepared the plans for the town as well as the fortifications surrounding the town with walls and moats. But the reconstruction of the fortifications was delayed for want of support from the authorities in France with the result that when the English attacked Pondicherry in 1778, the fortifications remained unfinished and Pondicherry fell easily into the hands of the British once again. This time the fortifications were destroyed.

Pondicherry after its restitution in 1783 was left in a very sad plight facing economic hardships and political uncertainty. There was a general spirit of despair and frustration among the inhabitants. Their trade and commerce had been ruined completely during the war. And peace did not bring them any consolation either. They had hoped for economic recovery after the war, but were rudely disappointed by the establishment of a new Company with monopoly over eastern trade. Only the inland trade was left open to private merchants, but in view of the political situation in the country, it did not amount to much. Moreover the Indian settlements were denuded of practically all European troops, munitions and other military stores and only a small number of sepoys were retained for the maintenance of law and order. Besides, all French possessions in the East were grouped into one administration under a Governor General with his seat in the Isle of France. Thus all of a sudden Pondicherry tost its pride of place as a capital and found itself reduced to the status of a dependency. "Pondicherry was henceforth to stand as a defenceless city, a mere commercial centre without any political significance."51

In an important political despatch, dated 4 February 1787 is found the outline of the policy of the French Government with regard to their possessions in India. According to this despatch the administration of Pondicherry, Mahe, Karaikal, Yanam and Chandernagore was to be retained by the king while that of the other settlements and factories was to be transferred to the new Company. There was absolutely no need for rebuilding the fortifications at Pondicherry. In the existing state of affairs, it would be sufficient to protect the town with a ditch and, if necessary, with some earthworks.52 This put an end to the plan of defence construction drawn up by engineer La Lustière, in September 1785. La Lustière had taken on hand the construction of a military hospital, barracks and arsenals, and the completion of the canal running through the town (started under Law) to divide the Indian quarter from the European quarter.

The Revolution in France however completely altered the situation. In September 1792, de Phelines, an engineer charged with the construction of fortifications arrived at Pondicherry. In June the next year definite information reached Pondicherry that the English were preparing to march against it. Hasty preparations were made to improve the defences. All that engineer de Phelines could do in the course of a month and a half was to improvise filling up the gaps at some places. The town fell again in 1793.

The basic lay-out of the town as it is found at present took shape after the final restitution of the French Establishments in 1816. Most of the important landmarks like administrative buildings, hospitals, schools, bazaars etc., came up only after 1816. The following is the chronology of significant events in the development of the town:

- 1817 The Government Press was opened.
- 1826 Central Bazaar established opposite to the choultry prison for the sale of articles and commodities which were hitherto displayed on the streets.53
  - The construction of compound walls around all properties within the Boulevards was ordered by the Administration in an attempt to give a face-lift to the town.
- 1827 Pensionnat des Jeunnes Filles and the Public Library opened.
  - The Grand Canal extended beyond rue de Gouvernement (later rue Dupleix and now rue Jawaharlal Nehru)
  - A 24 m. wide promenade called Cours Chabrol was laid and planted with four rows of trees. Horse driving and vehicular traffic along Cours Chabrol was prohibited in 1829,54
- 1828 The first textile mill went into operation.
- 1836 The area around the present lighthouse was planned and the light-house erected.
- 1852 The Clock Tower (Grand Bazaar) was gifted to the town by Diagou modeliar.
- 1853 The Colonial Hospital (now General Hospital) was opened (the same has now been pulled down for building a multi-storied structure)
- 1855 Construction of Eglise de Notre Dame des Anges in rue Duma 8 completed.

- 1856 House numbering and the naming of streets ordered.
- 1863 Drinking water supply from Muttirapalaiyam to two places in the town, Grand Bazaar and Place d'Armes\* arranged.
- 1864 A new textile mill (M/s. A. Pagel and Co.) was started on 15 April at Kusappalaiyam.
- 1866 Place de Napoleon-III (at present called Place du Gouvernement) was inaugurated. A pier (old one) was also opened on the same occasion. The sculptured monolithic pillars were erected near the pier and the 'Place'.
- 1870 The statue of Dupleix installed. Place de Napoleon-III rechristened as Place de République.
  - Foundation for Hôtel de Ville, Pondicherry laid (16 July).
- 1871 A new schedule determining the width of roads and pavements in Pondicherry was announced.
- 1875 Premises of Indo-China Bank (now occupied by UCO Bank) opened.
- 1877 College Calvé founded in 1875 as a private school started functioning as a Government school for the education of native children.
- 1879 Train services inaugurated (15 October).
- 1885 Land acquired for the construction of Ecole Primaire des Garçons.

  (now V.O.C. High School).55
- 1886 A new market (Petit Bazaar) opened.
- 1892 A new textile mill (originally called Gaebelê Mill and now Bharathi Mills) was started at Mudaliyarpettai.
- 1898 -- Rodier Mills started south of Savana Mills.
- 1907 Distillery shifted from Ariyankuppam to Pondicherry (to Cours Chabrol).

<sup>\*</sup>Originally known as Place d'Armes it came to be known subsequently as Place de Napoléon-III, Place de République and Place Charles de Gaulle.

1911 - Some of the streets in Pondicherry renamed after historical personages.

- rue Anandarangapoulle was extended upto Place du Gouvernement.56
- 1921 Standard Oil Company, New York permitted to set up a petrol depot within the campus of the Pondicherry Railway Station.
- 1923 The statue of John of Arc in white marble donated by François Gaudart, unveilled in the garden opposite to the church of Notre-Dame de Anges.
- 1935 The erection of War Memorial approved by Conseil Général.
- 1937 The waterbed of Grand Canal and Petit Canal paved.
  - The construction of Maternity Hospital taken up.
- 1942 The Historical and Archaeological Museum opened at Pondicherry
- 1946 The Municipal Commission passed a resolution on 20 November 1945 to change the name of Place du Gouvernement into Place Charles de Gaulle. The said resolution was approved by the Government in 1946.
- 1953 The construction of the Municipal theatre started (named as Kamban Kalai Arangam in 1973).

Having grown from a humble village of fishermen, the town suffered the ravages of the Dutch and then the English only to rise again from the cinders of destruction like a Phoenix. The city of Pondicherry has no doubt her own distinct character. Modest as she is, distinct from other leading cities of India, she has none the less her own peculiar characteristic 'French finesse'.

The town as designed by the French was divided into two parts commonly known as Ville Blanche and Ville Noire, i.e., white town and the black town. The area of the white town was 6,13,862 sq. metres. The black town covered an area of 15,09,818 sq. metres. The Grand Canal, which was 1800 ms. long and 11.5 ms. wide not only divided the town into two parts but also served

as the main outlet of rain water to the Uppar. The town west of the canal was in striking contrast to that of the east and the houses were usually single-storied and built in western style, however incorporating some local features. They were all spacious and provided with gardens. The Cours Chabrol was flanked with casuarina trees for a stretch of 1500 metres. The northern and southern boulevards were lined with the shady Thespasia Populnae trees. All this endowed the town with the charms of a garden city.

Pondicherry, from its inception in 1674 to the time the French left in 1954 had to play different roles. Starting as a trading colony, it grew up into the diplomatic headquarters of the Deccan under Dupleix only to settle as an entrepôt for the activities of the French in Indo-China. The function of Pondicherry as an entrepôt had its effect in the structure of the town. All the administrative and port activities were concentrated near the sea and around the square close to the residential areas of Frenchmen in Ville Blanche. All the buildings that served the above purposes, viz., the coal house, the warehouses, the Customs Office, the Port Office, Shipping Agencies and the Lighthouse were all located in the vicinity. All the administrative buildings were located alongside the 'Place' a little away from the sea as a kind of protection against naval attacks. The educational institutions were located in the southern sector of the town where the French preferred to live. By locating the work centres in the eastern sector, the French sought to reduce the distance between their work centres and living quarters.

The houses in the eastern sector were designed with gardens enclosed by a solid wall with few openings to the outside, to which was added a small tower sometimes giving the impression of a peasant fortress. The main opening was framed by a depressed arch, sometimes served by a roof of its own. To meet the rigours of the tropical climate and in order to provide for good circulation of air, roofs were kept high over pillars so as to reduce the impact of heat to the minimum in summer; taking into account the angle of the sun, the verandahs were kept usually on the rear side of the house thereby keeping that side cool by shades and gardens. Servants quarters were located in front contrary to the British system, probably to serve as a watch post. Kitchens formed part of the main building.57

Houses in the native area were built wall to wall with open space only at the rear. The pattern of houses was such as to afford a remarkable solution to the problem posed by the hot humid climate. The houses were built side by side in a row which protected the western and eastern sides of the house from direct sun leaving the two other sides (on the south and north) with small openings exposed to a large street that served as a wind funnel. A more orderly appearance was sought to be added to the town through building regulations viz., the front line of the building was required to follow the street alignment without encroaching upon the road, the height of buildings was not allowed to exceed beyond two storeys. As a measure of public hygiene, water resources at the rear had to be at least 3.05 ms. (10 feet) away from water closets. The commercial activities of the town developed at the cutting of the two main streets (viz. rue Madras and rue Grand Bazaar) and slowly expanded along the street as in the case of Indian market centres. It is said to depict truly the character of French introvert markets. Accessible from all sides through punctures from the main streets, with a central clock tower, it is divided into various sections according to the type of article sold. The stalls in the area are however typically Indian.

The industrial area within the town is almost negligible. The rest of the area is put to residential use. Due to the grid iron pattern of the town a high percentage of the area (33%) is occupied by roads. In short, all the major developments have taken place within the boulevard. The only land use that cropped up outside the boulevard was the textile industries. The low level of the land and the paddy fields in the west restricted the westward growth of the town.

The level of the town within the boulevard varied from 2.44 m. to 5.49m. (8 to 18 feet) above sea-level. This difference in the level and the slope of the ground seems to have been taken into consideration while designing the Grand Canal and Petit Canal. Thus all the sullage and flood waters from the town flow into these canals which in turn drain them into the Uppar. The French did not design any sewerage system for the town. The problem was met with septic tanks and through a daily conservancy system.

Notable features: Pondicherry town in its earlier stages of development is said to have followed the pattern of bastide towns\* in France with a wall around the town and the main gates (Madras Gate, Valudavur Gate) leading to the market. The rest of the area was divided into rectangular blocks on the same pattern of Montpazier in southern France.

Another notable feature of Pondicherry is the 'Quai' which is found in many French towns. Most of the French 'Quais' are built along rivers flowing through the town. In Pondicherry, this has been achieved through the formation of two promenades called 'Quai de Gingy' and 'Quai d'Ambour' on either side of the Grand Canal both of which were once lined with shady trees.

Squares in medieval French bastide towns were all market centres near the main streets. But later, they developed away from the main traffic arteries. These came to be known as Royal squares, as they were meant to serve as a setting for the statues of kings. The Place du Gouvernement in Pondicherry is a brilliant example of French planning of squares. Although it cannot be compared to any of the squares in France in its scale, it still epitomises the basic principles of the classical French squares. Another important characteristic is that all the main public buildings are lined along this square.

Out-door cafes as in France are now totally absent. The band stand within the enclosed park of Place du Gouvernement still stands as a monument to the Frenchman's love for music.

The main features of bastide towns are:

- 1. a large open space for the market preferably at the centre,
- 2. a church close to the market,
- 3. the main roads of the town to lead to the market, and
- 4. square or rectangular plots for buildings and houses.

<sup>\*</sup> They are medieval towns of South West France, built according to a geometrical plan, on the pattern of a chess board, with straight streets running parallel or cutting one another at right angles.

Another important aspect of French town planning was the provision of vistas in the urban setting. Although vistas in Pondicherry do not stand comparison to those in France, yet they add a new dimension to its urban setting. One such vista emerges out of the church of Notre Dame de l'Immaculée Conception as the centre of attraction. The focus of attention in another vista is the clock tower in Grand Bazaar with row of houses on either side. These vistas add beauty and grandeur to the town.

The town is not without its defects. It has been pointed out that an unusually large area is under roads, with no hierarchy of roads. Thus all streets carry traffic and every junction turns out to be a traffic bottleneck, especially in the commercial areas. The way the French had built the town had created some undesirable forms of social stratification with almost separate sectors for the French and the natives on the one hand and among the natives for Hindus, Christians and Muslims on the basis of religion and for the depressed classes on the basis of caste. But these invisible walls are slowly crumbling down.

After merger: With merger, the Territory in general and the town in particular which remained almost cut off from mainland India till then, came under a new impact. The phenomenal expansion of urban land uses in Pondicherry town not merely resulted in the growth of horizontal urban development but also in the coalescence of neighbouring Muttiyalupettai and Mudaliyarpettai and the intervening villages into the urban set up.

Given below are some of the important post-merger changes and developments in the landscape of Pondicherry:

- 1956 Medical College shifted to the Tribunal building in rue Simonel Pondicherry (now occupied by the Legislative Assembly).
- 1958 The stadium at Place d'Odiansalai (now Anna Thidal) inaugurated.
- 1960 The port and customs building near the new pier declared open.
- 1965 Gandhi Statue (Cours Chabrol) installed on 26 January.
- 1967 The first Government Tourist Home in Pondicherry town declared open at Uppalam Road near the Railway Station.
- 1969 Legislative Assembly shifted to the Tribunal building in rue Victor Simonel.
  - Improvement to Uppar drain reach II completed.

- 1973 Municipal Tourist Home in rue Victor Simonel opened.
  - Open-air theatre at Quai de Gingy declared open.
  - Statue of Annadurai installed on 5 July at Odiansalai.
  - The statue of Barathidasan installed on 29 April, at Place du Gouvernement.
- 1974 Bus-stand road widened.
- 1975 Romain Rolland Library shifted to its new premises at No. 3, Rangapillai Street.
  - Valudavur road widened.

# Town and Country Planning Office:

To begin with, a Town Planning Unit was established in 1965 under the Directorate of Public Works for drawing up development plans initially for Pondicherry and Karaikal towns and subsequently for Mahe and Yanam so as to regulate their future development according to these plans. This Unit was also expected to advise and assist the Government and other action agencies in solving problems connected with the use and development of land and to render technical assistance to municipalities in exercising control over urban development through Building Bye-laws and Zoning Regulations.

In 1966 the Town and Country Planning Unit started functioning independently and came to be known as Town and Country Planning Office headed by the Senior Town Planner who functioned under the administrative control of the Secretary dealing with housing and town planning. The Senior Town Planner is assisted by a Junior Town Planner, an Architect, two Town Planning Assistants, besides other technical and clerical staff.

The Town Planning Unit took up as its first task the preparation of an Interim Development Plan for Pondicherry Urban Area. This plan, drawn up during 1968, was submitted to the Government for approval in 1969. Subsequently a Comprehensive Development Plan and City Development Programme for Pondicherry Urban Areas was completed. Both these go to form the Pondicherry Master Plan. The draft Comprehensive Development Plan was drawn up reckoning the prospective population in 1983 as 1,65,000 taking into account the socio-economic growth. The other salient features of the Comprehensive Development Plan included the development of the sea beach as a

major recreational centre, redevelopment of Town Centre, shifting of bus stand, construction of a State Stadium, widening of Villiyanur and Valudavur Roads to tackle the problem of traffic congestion, construction of a Secretariat Complex on the beach, development of new residential areas with necessary amenities like roads, drains, water supply and parks, etc., a bye-pass road to divert Cuddalore bound traffic from Madras, etc.

The planning activities were extended to Karaikal urban area and a Sub-Office was set up there in March 1974. The Interim Development Plan for Karaikal Urban Area for a projected population of 50,000 by 1990 was completed in March 1975. Subsequently the Sub-Office took up the Comprehensive Development Plan for Karaikal, besides certain action oriented schemes like improvement to the bus stand, widening of major roads, a bye-pass road for quick movement of traffic, and development of Arasalar bank front as a major recreational area, etc. The Slum Clearance Scheme also was extended to Karaikal. Under this scheme 270 plots were developed under the 'Site and Service' concept and 150 plots allotted to slum dwellers to put up their own structures.

The implementation of the Slum Clearance Scheme, Land Acquisition and Development Scheme, Environmental Improvement of Slum Areas under the Minimum Needs Programme and Capital Development Project is also the responsibility of this office. The first project under the Slum Clearance Scheme was launched at Dubrayapet, Pondicherry, where 80 dwelling units were built and allotted to slum dwellers. Under the second phase, 96 tenements were under construction.

### Regional Development Plan:

A Rural Planning Cell was set up at Villiyanur in April 1974 with a view to preparing a Regional Development Plan for the balanced growth of urban and rural areas in Pondicherry region. The preparation of a Regional Development Plan for Pondicherry region was taken up after taking into consideration the impact of the nearby towns of Tamil Nadu as well as of the township of Auroville. This Cell will also prepare Development Plans for all villages in Pondicherry region having a population of 100 and above in a phased manner. The work on the Development Plan for Villiyanur proper was completed in March 1976.

## Environmental Improvement of Slum Areas:

In all, 13 slum areas covering about 10,000 slum dwellers were identified in and around Pondicherry town for environmental improvement by way of providing roads, side drains, toilet facilities, etc.

The Capital Development Project, Pondicherry envisages the overall improvement of Pondicherry town so that it could retain its image as a capital city. Proposals taken up under this scheme included beautification of the sea beach, re-development of Town Centre, widening of major roads and boulevards, construction of a new Secretariat complex, etc.

### Legislation:

With a view to enabling the Administration to exercise proper control over construction works and to empower it with necessary powers to put an end to the haphazard growth of town and villages, the abuses of real estate dealers, etc., a comprehensive Town and Country Planning Bill based on the model of the Town Planning Act (Central Act) was passed by the Pondicherry Legislative Assembly in April 1969 and brought into force in this Territory with effect from 15 September 1971. Under the provisions of this Act, the responsibility for the preparation of plans and the powers to enforce the provisions of the Act have been entrusted to one and the same agency.

# Town and Country Planning Board:

As provided for by the Town and Country Planning Act, a State Level Town and Country Planning Board was constituted on 9 December 1971. Its responsibilities are to guide, direct and assist Planning Authorities in the different regions and to advise the Government on matters relating to Town and Country Planning Development and the use of rural and urban land in the Territory and to perform such other functions which the Government may assign to it under the Act from time to time.

## Planning Authorities:

The Pondicherry Planning Authority was formed in November 1972 to exercise [control over urban development with power to issue permits for the construction of buildings in accordance with the provisions of the Act.58 In order to place the Planning Authority on a sound footing, it was reconstituted in 1975 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to the Government so as to achieve better administrative co-ordination. The Pondicherry Planning Authority is authorised to prescribe uses of land within its jurisdiction, and for this purpose it may carry out necessary surveys in its area and prepare reports of such surveys.

The Karaikal Planning Authority was constituted in June 1974.

Housing:

The Housing Societies are the chief agencies promoting housing schemes in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. Loans are advanced to members for construction of houses under the Low and Middle Income Group Housing Schemes. Village Housing Schemes were implemented since 1965 in selected villages in the Territory. Under this scheme loans were given by the Block Agency to low income group families and agricultural labourers upto a maximum of Rs. 3,000 for building new houses or for carrying out improvements in old houses. This scheme did not achieve much as only 90 houses in all were built in the block area.

Although industrial workers number more than 12,000 in the Territory, private industries have not evinced any interest so far in meeting the housing problem of their workers. The Gandhinagar Colony was the first industrial workers housing colony to come up in the Territory under Governmental initiative. The Industrial Workers Housing Society is the only institution concerned with special housing schemes for industrial workers. The first Fishermen Housing Scheme took shape in Pudukkuppam fishing village. But the loan assistance was not found adequate to meet the cost of construction. Under the Harijan Housing Scheme, Harijan Housing Colonies were built and houses allotted to individuals on rental basis. Free house sites are also distributed to Harijan families. (For more details see Chapter XVIII)

According to a survey conducted by the Directorate of Pilot Research Project in Growth Centres in 1973 almost 45 per cent. of the population of the Villiyanur Block area were counted as houseless. Commune wise the number of houseless families in Pondicherry region was as follows: 59

Bahur	2,626	Ariyankuppam	2,851
Nettappakkam	2,281	Ozhukarai	5,557
Mannadipattu	3,192	Mudaliyarpettai	4,878
Villiyanur	3,719	Pondicherry	6,049

The census carried out by the same Directorate in September 1974 revealed that 12,519 families covering a population of 53,179 did not own houses. Most of the families lived on sites belonging to the Government, private individuals, temples or on the pavements.60

Housing Board: With the tremendous impact of urbanisation the housing situation in Pondicherry turned out to be a matter of grave concern. It was also realised that the problem could be met only by constituting a Housing Board equipped with statutory powers for unifying all activities, connected with housing, town planning and allied matters. The Pondicherry Housing Board Act 1973 (No. 7 of 1974) modelled after the Tamil Nadu Act was passed in 1974 and brought into force with effect from 26 May 1975. 61 An 8-member Housing Board with the Chief Secretary as Chairman was constituted on 26 May 1975, with statutory powers to deal with the problem of housing and to raise sufficient institutional finance for housing and urban development from the Central Government as well as other financial institutions. Under section 129 of the said Act, the Pondicherry Housing Board Rules, 1975 were notified in the Gazette of 7 June 1975. 62 The Housing Board was reconstituted on 1 October 1975. 63

# IV. Public health

## Introductory:

It is certain that from the XVIII century, most of the functions connected with the maintenance of public hygiene was the responsibility of the police. Even after the restoration of the territory to the French in 1816 these functions continued to be performed by the police. The ordonnance of 21 August 1826 made provision for the inspection of public places like restaurants, maintenance of cleanliness of roads, street watering and so on. 64

The **ordonnance** of 25 May 1827, dealt with measures to be taken to maintain the cleanliness of the town. The public were required to throw the sweepings only at specified spots. House-owners were required to water the open space in front of their houses. Butchers, bakers and merchants of consumable articles were strictly forbidden to sell items of low quality. 65 Attention was paid in 1844 to protect the well waters of Muttirapalaiyam from pollution.66 With the inauguration of local self-government in 1880, functions touching upon public health devolved upon the municipalities. The **décret** of 12 March 1880 did not however spell out these functions in detail. For want of resources, many of the municipal functions were performed by the Government itself. Thus problems connected with public health came to be dealt with by separate legislative measures. The **décret** of 31 May 1905 stipulated the measures to be taken in times of epidemics.67

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Service Municipal d'Hygiéne: The décret of 16 July 1936 promulgated by the arrêté of 15 February 1937 was an important measure in that it sought to consolidate all the different regulations touching upon public hygiene into a single law and to spell out in much greater detail municipal functions touching upon public hygiene and urbanisation. 'Service Municipal d'Hygiéne' was placed under the authority of the Mayor. The 'Chef du Service de Santé' exercised technical control over the service. The Service Municipal d'Hygiéne also compiled health statistics, carried out vaccinations, exercised control over city water-supply, dealt with issues of graveyards and inhumation, school hygiene, cattle welfare, inspection of slaughter houses and market places, etc. In order to carry out the functions assigned to this service, offices known as Bureau municipal d'Hygiéne were set up at Pondicherry, Karaikal, Chandernagore, Mahe and Yanam. In other communes, it was known as Office municipal d'hygiene. These establishments were placed under the technical control of the senior surgeon appointed for each 'circonscription sanitaire' except in Pondicherry where the 'Bureau d'hygiene' was under the direction of a specialist.

The strict application of sanitary regulations under the supervision and technical direction of the sanitary authorities was made the responsibility of the Mayor by the décret of 17 July 1936. 68 Precautionary measures to check the spread of contagious diseases, the cleanliness of thoroughfares, dwelling places, schools, workshops, industries, hospitals, slaughter houses and other public places, prescription on hygienic food, drinking water, removal of refuses, destruction of animals and insects found dangerous for public health were also part of the Mayor's duties. Mayors were bound to ensure the execution of the measures prescribed by the Government within six months. In times of emergency, the Governor may order immediate execution of the measures prescribed.

Some of the very interesting features of this legislation may be mentioned here. Parents or guardians were responsible for having their children vaccinated. Whenever the death rate in any particular commune exceeded the average mortality rate for the entire region, the Governor was required to order an enquiry into the sanitary conditions of that particular commune. The findings of such an enquiry were to be communicated to the municipal authorities for taking necessary remedial measures. In case any municipality failed to remedy the situation, such measures could be executed by the Government and the expenditure incurred was to be debited to the account of the municipality. The owners of buildings were under obligation to whitewash their

houses at least once in two years. The décret specified the diseases which were obligatory to be notified to the authorities and also those which were optional. Home refuses and the sweepings were to be deposited in front of the house before 7 a.m. to enable the conservancy staff to remove them. The deliberation of 7 March 1940 prohibited the throwing of garbage on the roads after 8 a.m. Hotels, lodges, choultries and industrial units could be established only with the approval of the municipality. Private clinics or dispensaries were allowed to function only if they fulfilled certain conditions in respect of its location, hygienic condition, other facilities available for the treatment of patients and the qualification of those concerned with the management of these institutions. Slaughter houses, dog pounds, markets as well as the disposal of dead animals fell within the realm of the municipalities. All these functions are now performed by the Municipalities and Commune Panchayats in accordance with the provisions of the Pondicherry Municipalities Act, 1973 and the Pondicherry Village and Commune Panchayats Act, 1973 and the rules made thereunder.

### Water supply:

In the absence of a Public Health Engineering Unit in the Territory the provision of drinking water supply in towns may be taken as the responsibility of the Public Works Department, while in rural areas that of the Commune or Village Panchayats. However a proposal was mooted in 1973 to have a separate Public Health Division to be attached to the Public Works Department to be in charge of all public health engineering schemes in the Territory. This proposal was later approved by the Ministry of Health as well.69

Besides the Public Works Department and the local bodies, the Community Development Blocks also entered the field subsequently. As part of the Harijan Welfare Programme, wells were dug and overhead tanks were constructed in harijan localities by the Government. These were handed over to the municipalities for maintenance.

Pondicherry Town: The first attempt to supply drinking water to the Pondicherry Town was made in 1863. The water from Muttirapalaiyam was brought to the town through a brick masonry canal and supplied by means of public taps to about one-third of the total population. The water could not be supplied to the high level areas of the town. Constructed in the year 1863 according to a plan drawn by Lamairesse, an engineer of the then Public

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Works Department, this canal stretched over a length of 6,000 ms. from the well at Muttirapalayam upto the fountain in Place du Gouvernement. Although this scheme assured supply of 300 cubic metres of water per day, the volume of water obtained in 1909 did not exceed 150 cubic metres due to the deteriorated condition of the canal. The remaining two-thirds of the population used water from wells. The water in most of these wells contained a high percentage of sodium chloride because of the proximity of the sea. Moreover the wide use of water from pools was responsible, particularly during the rainy season, for contamination which coincided with the outbreak of epidemics. The question of drinking water supply to the entire town received the attention of the Government again in 1905. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that the scheme formulated earlier by one Poilay in 1887 to harness the water resources of Lawspet was given up since the water there was found unsuitable by the Comité Consultatif d'hygiène in France. 70 Finally, after a study of the underground water resources in various parts in the region. Muttirapalayam was selected for the purpose. Four wells were sunk for harnessing the water which was brought to a reservoir through a 300 mm. diameter pipe-line of 805 m. length so designed as to keep the water always fresh and pure. The water was then brought to the town through a 350 mm. diameter pipe-line capable of supplying 65 litres per second, the distance between the reservoir at Muttirapalaiyam and the Boulevard being 5 kms. This served the important agglomerations of Saram, Shanmukhapuram, Pillaitottam, Delasupet (Delarchepet), etc. In order to ensure uninterrupted supply of water, another pipe-line of 200 mm. diameter was laid in 1917. The second pipe-line taking off from the water works at Muttirapalayam, ran a distance of 6 km. to join the 200 mm. pipe-line laid in rue de Bussy (now called rue Lal Bahadur Sastri). This line served the important agglomerations of Ozhukarai, Reddiyarpalaiyam and Nellitoppu.

The water thus brought to the town along the Villiyanur and Valudavur roads, was carried from one end of the town to the other through pipes of 350 mm. 300 mm., and 250 mm. to cater to the entire town with necessary pressure to get the water elevated to storeys. An annular pipe-line of 200 mm. divided into six reaches (biefs) carried water to all parts of the town. These pipe-lines with a length of 65 km. and more completed the network. The network consisted of pipe-lines of 100 mm., 75 mm. and 50 mm. taking off from the main arteries, provided with taps and stopcock. The outflow was ensured through 108 taps, 59 openings for hose pipes (bouches d'arrosfige ou d'incendie), 995 private connections, and 176 connections in public buildings.

According to later reports, water was drawn from five open wells and five tube wells. Later, two more borewells were added. Subsequently, water was obtained from six borewells and three open wells. In 1966 one borewell was sunk at the Muttirapalaiyam pumping station. During 1969-70, five experimental borewells were sunk to supplement the source. In 1970 two more borewells were sunk. But the water was found unfit for drinking purposes due to excess of iron content. At present 19 tube wells and four wells are in operation. The present set up is more than sixty years old and it was established to meet the requirements of the then population. Now that the population has increased considerably, the system is hardly adequate to meet the present requirements. Further so many connections were taken from the line which connected the headworks at Muttirapalaiyam to the network of the town area to supply water to the villages en route. So the pressure inside the town became so low creating problems for the supply of water within the town.

The problem of water pollution was studied in 1961 and 1963 through bacteriological examinations of samples of tap water, ice, ponds, tanks and drains which showed the presence of harmful organisms. A quick survey of 65 samples from eight communes in Pondicherry region showed that water in Pondicherry and Mudaliyarpettal showed pollution. There was no regular system for checking, cleaning and disinfecting overhead tanks in the Territory.71 The wells in Muttirapalaiyam were also found to function under very insanitary conditions.72

The procedure of chlorinating the water was also found far from satisfactory. There was no chloronome for automatic chlorination of water and facilities for storage of bleaching powder were unsatisfactory with the result a sample of bleaching powder was one-third of the desired standard. The water sample from the reservoir did not even show a trace of residual chlorine. Chlorination is being carried out by dissolving bleaching powder in water and injecting this to the sucking pipe. The chlorinating units installed during the French period have become old and could no more be repaired for want of spare parts. Hence a new chlorinating unit was fixed at Muttirapalaiyam pumping station.

Under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme a comprehensive drinking water supply scheme estimated to cost Rs. 99.25 lakhs was drawn up anticipating a population of 1,17,000 in Pondicherry town by the end of 2001 A.D. ensuring a per capita rate of supply of 30 gallons per day. This scheme, for which approval was accorded by the Ministry of Health and

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Family Planning in 1972, will also benefit areas on the periphery of the town. Under the scheme, the town is divided into two sectors to be fed by two reservoirs of 20.02 lakh litres capacity each to be located at Muttiyalupettai and Uppalam. As the first phase of the scheme, another pipe-line of 53.24 cm. diameter was laid from the headwork at Muttirapalaiyam to Pattanikkadai to reach the network of the town area. This arrangement assured water supply to the town at 136.50 litres per head per day.73

Karaikal town: The inhabitants of Karaikal depended on wells and ponds for their drinking water. During the rainy season i.e., from July to December the inhabitants fetched water from the river. During summer the people depended on well water which contained a high percentage of chloride that it was not used. The well-to-do obtained water from a well in 'Jardin Colonial' at Kovilpattu at the rate of three francs per cubic metre. In the absence of a proper water supply scheme the death rate due to various epidemics like cholera, typhoid etc., was very high. The good results obtained from the artesian wells in Pondicherry impelled the Administration to sink such artesian wells in Karaikal also in 1880. The work was commenced in August 1880 and a well was sunk to a depth of 16 metres at Place du Gouvernement in the heart of the town. But the water had a high content of sodium chloride which made it unfit for drinking.

In 1904, the municipality decided to sink a big well in the Kovilpattu garden replacing the three wells from which water used to be sold. This project fell through as the water was found unfit for use. Following the suggestion made by the Conseil Général in its session during 1910-11 to include the water-supply scheme in the programme of works to be undertaken, the local administration prepared a project. This scheme envisaged harnessing the water from the Kovilpattu garden which the municipality had earlier tried in 1904, by digging six wells in six corners in the shape of a hexagon within a eircumference of 200 m. diameter. In 1912, one Belime was sent to Pondicherry by the Ministère des Colonies to study the above project and to explore the possibility of finding any other source of water. A number of borings were undertaken and finally the Arasalar bed was chosen for investigation. Inhabitants of the villages located on eigher side of the river banks drew water from the wells bored in the brown sandy soil. Among such wells, could be mentioned the well of Akalanganni, Pettai, Angalammankoil, Uzhiapattu or Oduturai. It was found that the wells of Akalanganni, Pettai and Angalanmankoil supplied water in abundance and of good quality. A sample of water taken on 20 December 1913 from the northern bank of the Arasalar confirmed the superiority of the water of Akalanganni. Hence it was decided to utlise the water from the water-bed at Akalanganni. The project drawn up by Belime envisaged the construction of a gallery, elevatory works, reservoir, pipe-line and distribution network, the distance between the reservoir and the town being 8,800 metres. Since cost of iron was very high the canal was constructed in cement. The main pipe of 200 mm. was laid in Tirunallar street thus dividing the town into two sectors. The water was distributed by means of a 100 mm. pipe-line divided into several reaches.

Since then no major development or repair was carried out. The head work is at present situated in Arasalar where the old infiltration gallery exists. The capacity of the gallery was so designed to meet the requirements of the then population and it was not sufficient to meet the requirements of the increased population. The attempts made to get additional water by sinking more tube wells was not successful as ground water even below 30 feet was saline in Karaikal area. Hence the only alternative was to install another infiltration gallery. The Master Plan for water supply in Karaikal region was so designed as to provide water to all villages and hamlets. This scheme also provided for a new distribution network with one overhead tank to be built south of Karaikal town and the provision of two diesel alternators at Akalanganni headworks. The work on the scheme, estimated to cost Rs. 25 lakhs, was started in 1974.

Mahe town: Mahe had a municipal water supply system at Tattakulam with one ground level reservoir and additional source well. Apart from this, the public drew their water from the municipal wells. This being a rocky area, tube wells have not proved successful. In 1974 the Kerala Government was requested to include Mahe region in the Anjarakandy Water Supply Scheme prepared by them for supply of drinking water to Cannanore and Tellicherry Towns, as Mahe was only at a distance of about 7 kms. from Tellicherry. The Kerala Government had also agreed to the proposal.

Yanam town: The inhabitants of Yanam used to fetch their drinking water from the wells. But sometime in 1866, the British Government had constructed a dam in Dawlesvaram. The water stored was utilised for irrigation purposes by a net work of canals. A secondary canal emanating from this dam fed the pond of Nallasserouvou in Yanam which was used for supplying water to its inhabitants. During summer, water flow in Gautami Godavari

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used to diminish so much that the water could not reach upto the end of the canal. During such time i.e., for about 50 to 70 days Yanam used to be deprived of drinking water and the people had to depend on the water reserves of Nallasserouvou. It was calculated that about 35,000 cubic metres must be stored so that it could cater to the needs of the population. But the area of the lake was such that its capacity was only 18 to 20,000 cubic metres.

The water was filtered and then supplied to the region through a small overhead tank. Even after filtration the water was not found to be totally clean for drinking purposes. Hence it was found necessary to have the water distilled with the help of a sedimentation tank besides other ancillary amenities.

To remedy the situation a new distribution system with pressure filters executed at a cost of Rs. 3.16 lakhs was commissioned in 1974. The isolated Gerempeta village in Yanam region will be benefited with the extension of the Byravapolem Water Supply Scheme in Andhra Pradesh.

The Muttirapalaiyam Rural water supply: water works, originally meant to meet the requirements of Pondicherry town, provided good drinking water to all the villages in Pondicherry Commune and a few villages in Ozhukarai and Mudaliyarpettai Communes. Other villages were provided with open wells, tube wells, ground level tanks or overhead tanks depending upon the source, convenience and specific requirement of the area concerned. Wells and overhead tanks are constructed either by the Public Works Department themselves. Block entered the or bv the municipalities The subsequently.

In 1965 the Evaluation Cell of the Bureau of Statistics carried out a survey to assess the availability of drinking water in the rural areas. The survey covered 40 sample villages, 30 in Pondicherry region and 10 in Karaikal region. While presenting an almost rosy picture of the availability of drinking water facility, it brought to light the prevalence of the practice of segregation in the villages. Out of 122 sources of drinking water, 76 sources were open to all, 18 exclusively for the use of scheduled castes and 28 usable by other communities only. In Karaikal out of 116 sources, 41 sources were open to all, 27 exclusively for the use of scheduled castes and 48 for other communities. This showed that the system of segregation was more rigorous in Karaikal than in Pondicherry.74

According to a study carried out by the Directorate of Pilot Research Project in 1973 the position seems to have deteriorated considerably. According to its report, "maintenance of overhead tanks is found to be very unsatisfactory. It has been noticed in village after village that there is some defect or other which results in the basic necessity of life not made available to the people". Further, "there are public wells without water. Tube wells dug under the drought relief scheme in 1968-69 are not useful as most of them are dry or abandoned or ill-located. The position in respect of overhead tanks is also regrettable. There are water in the wells but the electric motor pumpsets are not working. There are also wells without water provided with overhead tanks. In many cases the horse power of the motor is not adequate to draw up water from the well in which both water level is very low. There are few cases in which both water is available and motor is working but the absence of proper taps and supply lines results in the flow of water directly from the pump as one finds in the field wells irrigating the lands and it causes a lot of wastage of water. There are open wells in which water supply is found to be inadequate, dirty and brackish. All these speak of an unsatisfactory position in most villages and people are not getting the supply of drinking water in their villages or the supply is so inadequate that their requirements are not satisfied. There are many villages which make use of field wells in private lands to get drinking water."

This study which covered 268 villages showed that 18 villages had no source of drinking water and the people had to depend on private wells, field wells, or the sources available in the neighbouring villages. In all 46 villages had open wells, two villages had hand pumps. Out of 110 overhead tanks, as many as 44 were not functioning; 13 villages had ground level tanks, 76 villages had street taps. Thus a total of 62 villages (44+18) mostly in Mannadipattu, Ariyankuppam, Villiyanur and Bahur Communes did not have any kind of drinking water facility. Only in 145 villages where drinking water was available from street taps and overhead tanks, protected water supply was assured. According to this study, protected drinking water was not available in 123 villages in Pondicherry region.

The same study which also covered 87 harijan settlements in the region showed that 43 villages did not have even the minimum supply of drinking water as there was no source of supply. The report pointed out that the position with regard to the maintenance of water works was not satisfactory.75

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Under the Master Plan for Rural Water Supply in Pondicherry region, it was envisaged to provide all the villages and hamlets in Pondicherry region with drinking water facilities. The work was taken up for execution in 1966. It may be pointed out that during the Second and Third Plan periods, water supply in the rural areas was the responsibility of the block and municipal agencies. The P.W.D. entered the field only during the Fourth Plan. As a first step it took up schemes for 25 villages covering a population of 27,000. The schemes were completed and subsequently handed over to the concerned municipalities.

As on 31 March 1976, in all 167 villages out of 334 (Census) villages in the Territory had adequate potable water supply while the rest resorted to open wells and ponds.

The Master Plan for Water Supply in Karaikal region seeks to provide drinking water to all villages and hamlets in five communes. The plan also envisages carrying out two major improvements viz., providing a new distribution network with one overhead tank on the south of Karaikal and providing two diesel alternatives at Akalanganni headworks. The entire scheme estimated to cost Rs. 25.00 lakhs was taken up for execution in 1974-75.

# Drainage:

Pondicherry Drainage System: The flood waters and partially the sewage of Pondicherry town and its surrounding area was discharged into a wide open, slow moving kutcha drain called the Uppar drain running along the western and southern parts of the town a little away from the boulevards. Near about the beach where the mouth of the sea is closed for most of the year, the effluent accumulated into a stagnant creek. Even the textile mills let off their effluent into the open sewage canal leading to the lagoon by the sea-side. Apart from being used for soaking coconut husks for making coir and ropes, they served as a breeding ground for mosquitos. 76

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Not much attention seems to have been paid to the drainage system during the II and III Plan periods. However since then a scheme was drawn up to improve the Uppar drain so as to improve its carrying capacity and relieve the drainage congestion in the adjoining areas. The entire stretch was divided into four reaches and the second reach was completed first in view of

its proximity to the newly developing housing colonies i.e., during the IV Plan period. Work on reaches I and IV was completed in 1975 and that of III was started in July 1975. The work in the three reaches could be carried out only with the finalisation of acquisition proposals of 8.6288 acres in Saram, Puduppalaiyam and Olandai villages.

The link drainage system which was to include the Karuvadikuppam drain, Pakkamudiyanpet drain, Olandai drain, Nellitoppu drain and Ayyanarkoil drain was proposed for implementation under the V Plan.

Pondicherry town is even to-day served by an open drainage system which is connected to the southern flank of the Uppar drain. Only after 1936, major works were carried out to provide proper drainage, such as construction of side drains, etc. In 1937, the 'Petit canal' which emanated from West Boulevard and the 'Grand canal' which separated the eastern sector from the western sector were reprofiled with a view not to let the water stagnate. The same year the boulevards of the town were provided with side drains for the easy flow of stagnant water. 77 Nevertheless in some parts of the town sewage water from houses flow into the streets only to stagnate on the road.

Under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme an underground drainage system for Pondicherry, drawn up at an estimated cost of Rs. 58.32 lakhs, was sanctioned by the Ministry of Health in 1963. The scheme was designed for an ultimate population of 1,25,000 with a sewage contribution of 25 gallons per head per day.

For the present, only the area within the boulewards is covered under the scheme. However, the main lines on the border have been so designed as to take an additional quantity of 500 gallons per minute so that, if at a later date, any part of the outskirts of the town is to be connected to this system it can be easily done without modification of the scheme.78

The scheme includes the construction of a Main Pumping Station, a Sub-Pumping Station (Lal Bahadur Sastri Street), an Intermediate Pumping Station between the Main Pumping Station and the Sewage Farm (200 acres) and the laying of house service connections. The progress was slow due to difficulties caused by cumbersome acquisition proceedings. The sewage farm is proposed to be established at Navalkulam behind the Tagore Arts College.

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The Jipmer campus has its own sewage system and activated sludge plant.

Karaikal Drainage System: In 1969 the Madras Public Health Engineering Department prepared a scheme estimated to cost Rs. 30,000 lakhs for a drainage system for Karaikal after carrying out an investigation of the town. The scheme could not however be implemented during the IV Plan.79

The other two towns of Mahe and Yanam do not have any underground drainage system.

Urban areas have community septic tank latrines in several wards. Private houses have either service or septic tank latrines depending on the economic status of the house owners. Dry refuse is dumped with mud for filling up low lying areas.

The rural areas are mostly without latrines and people use the open fields. While compost pits are quite popular in rural areas, soakage pits are not that popular.

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### CHAPTER—XV

## EDUCATION AND CULTURE

## I. Historical perspective

#### Education:

A glimpse of the glorious state of education in this part of the country as early as in the VIII century A.D. is available from the famous Bahur copper plate inscription. It speaks of a Vidyastana (seat of learning) in Bahur (in Aruvanadu) for which the gift of three villages was made in the 8th regnal year of Nrpatungavarman. It was already a well established institution of Sanskrit studies. The standard of learning and the accomplishments of a student of the college may be easily judged by reading the prasasti composed in elegant Sanskrit verses by a servant of the Vidyasthana whose name was Nagaya and who knew the truth of sciences. The college curriculum, according to a verse in the Bahur plates, consisted of the fourteen ganas\* and was controlled by the learned men of that village, being organised and maintained by them 'as the Ganges (Mandakini) descending from the sky with all the fury of its rushing waves is borne by the God Siva on one of his matted locks.'

The endowment of the college consisted of the three villages of Chettupakkam, Vilangattangaduvanur and Iraippunaicceri. The revenue from these villages was to be enjoyed by the residents of the seat of learning at 'Vagur'. The donor was a district officer of the Pallava kingdom by name Martandan alias Nilaitangai of the family of Visali. The chief requested king Nrpatunga to permit him to transfer the ownership of the three villages situated in his own district (rastra) to the *Vidyastana* and the king appointed his minister Uttamasila as ajivapati and ordered him to carry out the transfer.

<sup>\*</sup> Caturdassa vidya is said to be a collective name for the fourteen branches of learning. Dr. Fleet defines caturdassa vidya as the 'four Vedas, the six Vedangas, the Puranas, the Mimamsa system of Philosophy, the Nyaya system and Dharma Sastra.

The traditional Sanskrit learnings apparently continued even during the Chola period particularly in the XI century. From a picture that has been presented by Nilakanta Sastri of popular and higher education during the Chola days we may state that popular education must have been provided in temples and other public places. It must have consisted of recitations and expositions of the Ramayana, the Mahabaratha and the Puranas. Higher education was generally denominational in character and pursued in schools and colleges attached to mutts and temples. We come across numerous inscriptions which speak of endowments provided for the pursuit of several branches of studies.2 We hear of such a seat of learning at Tirubhuvanai. There were in it 260 students and 12 teachers. The subjects of study were generally the elements of grammar according to the Rupavatara, the four Vedas, Vajasaneya, the Chandoga, the Brahmanas, the Upanishad, Baudhayana-Grhyakalpa and Gana, Vyakarana, Prabhakara Mimamsa, Vedanta Satya Sudha Sutras, besides Bharatha, Ramayana and Manusastra and Vaikhanasasastra, these last being expounded to popular audiences rather than taught as school subjects.\* The daily allowances to students and teachers were all in grain; junior students were allowed six measures each and seniors eight; among teachers the professor of Vedanta got a kalam and a sixth, while others received allowances ranging from one kalam to a fourth of it. The inscription of the thirtieth year of Rajadhiraja, A.D. 1048 which records these facts, also exempts the teachers and students of the college from active service on the committees of the village assembly in accordance with a resolution of the sabha. 3

We have no precise information about the facilities that were available for education since then until the arrival of the French in the XVII century. Some of the higher castes had their own schools known as thinnai palligal where students from other castes were not admitted. To begin with, the students wrote on sand with their fingers and then on palm leaves. All their books were on palm leaves. These schools were run by pandits and vathiars well versed in local languages, religion and arithmetic.

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<sup>\*</sup> The subjects of study were generally those prescribed at Ennayiram College.

The efforts of foreign missionaries in the field of education become evident from the beginning of XVIII century marking also the beginning of modern education in Pondicherry. As early as in 1703, the Jesuits opened a few schools for the children of the 'colons' (settlers). The schools had become so well known that there were some years later as many as thirty students who included two Europeans, one from Paris, another from London—the son of the Governor of Cuddalore, five from Africa, one from Spain and the others from such far off places as Pegou, Bengal, Madras, Porto Novo, Surat, Ispahan, etc. These schools managed by the missionaries proved inadequate to meet the needs of the growing town. The Superior Council at one time even considered sending the students to France for higher studies.4 But this proposal did not materialise.

Some years later the Jesuits opened a college in Pondicherry which passed through many ups and downs in the course of its career. Following the suppression of the Jesuits in France (1764), the college had to be closed and it was only on 31 May 1787 that it was reopened. Now it was entrusted to the priests of the Foreign Missions (prêtres des Missions Etrangères) who had succeeded the Jesuits in 1776. Although the government authorised its functioning on 3 June 1787 no grant was given to run the institution. 5 Father Magny, an old Jesuit who subsequently joined the Foreign Mission, was placed in charge of the college. Though the college enrolled a good number of students, the institution stopped functioning during the revolution. Following the events of 3 April 1793, Father Magny retired to Tarangambadi. accompanied by a few of his students and the college ceased to function thereafter.

It appears that apart from this college, there were two other educational institutions in Pondicherry. One was the 'Séminaire Général' of Virampattinam established in 1771 by Mgr. Pigneau de Behaine. Europeans, Chinese as well as Annamites were admitted to this institution. The other was 'Collège Malabarc' where Indians who were reluctant to enroll in the other institution on account of caste consideration were admitted.

As early as in 1738, the Ursulines came to Pondicherry at the invitation of Dumas to run some schools for girls. They however left three years later on account of some misunderstanding with the Conseil Supérieur. This came as a great blow to the spread of girls' education in the establishment for about a hundred years.

The XIX century is marked by significant developments in the field of education. This was also the time when important developments were taking place in the field of education in British India. Soon after the French took over from the British (1816), they gave serious thought to the problem of education. Comte Dupuy (1816-1825), the first Governor appointed after the final restoration, evinced keen interest in promoting the education of the youth. On his request, the missionaries reopened the college. The king is said to have instituted six scholarships for the benefit of children hailing from poor families which had shown great devotion to the cause of 'His Majesty'. Although the college followed the same syllabus as prescribed for colleges in France, it languished for want of able professors and lack of proper management. Another school was started by one Leyrit. Dupuy encouraged him with an annual grant of 1500 francs. This institution, however, did not last long as Levrit retired to Bourbon in 1820. In the meanwhile, the missionaries had opened three primary schools, one in Pondicherry called 'Ecole de la rue Royale' in 1820 (now rue Surcouf), another in Karaikal for teaching Tamil and French and a similar one in Mahe (1825), 6

Under the administration of Desbassyns de Richemont (19 June 1826 to 1 August 1828), education received fresh impetus. It was under him that primary education, secondary education as well as professional education started to take some shape. He found that the college started by the missionaries had fallen to the level of a primary school. Hence he took up its reorganisation as his first task and placed it under university management (Universitaires). This prompted the issue of the local ordinance of 26 October 1826 creating the Collège Royal de Pondichéry. It was reorganised more or less on the model of colleges in France. This was later approved by the ministerial letter of 20 July 1827.

For the benefit of the natives two free schools were opened by the arrêté of 1 February 1827, one at Pondicherry and another at Karaikal.7 Reading, writing and arithmetic through French and Tamil mediums were taught in the schools. Another school for the depressed classes was opened in 1828. No information is, however, available as to the location of these schools.

Some effective steps were also taken by Desbassyns de Richemont to promote girls' education in the establishments. In 1826 he invited the sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph de Cluny to Pondicherry from Bourbon. The

ordinance of 10 February 1826 authorised them to open a **Pensionnat des**Jeunes Demoiselles in Pondicherry where primary and upper primary education was imparted. A free school was later added to the **Pensionnat**.\*

The royal ordinance of 30 September 1843 was at once a landmark and a turning point in the field of education.8 A landmark it was because it sought to modernise education. It was a turning point because it attempted to provide the same kind of education as in France with a view to bringing about the cultural assimilation of the local population through French education. Moreover, youngsters in the colonies seeking jobs in the colony or abroad had to be provided with an education enabling them to get the same diplomas as their counterparts in France. The main provisions governing the system of free education at the primary level were drawn from the French law of 28 June 1833. As provided for in the ordinance, Commissions d'Instruction Publique were constituted in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Chandernagore.\*\* These Commissions consisting of officials of the administration and notables of the town examined, among other things, the system of education and recommended such reforms and improvements as were deemed necessary. The idea to form such Commissions was also drawn from France. Pondicherry, thanks to the zeal of the Conseil Général and the local government, seems to have set an example for other colonies. This fact was endorsed by Baron de Mackau, the then Ministre de la Marine in a letter dated 27 October 1843 wherein he stated that in no other colony was the system of education so well organised as here. सन्यापन जयन

Even though the system of education was biased in favour of French language, the study of local languages was not neglected. For instance, competitive examinations seem to have been held since 1843 to select an employee of the administration showing the greatest proficiency in any one of the following languages viz., Tamil, Hindi or Telugu. The successful candidate was eligible for a prize money of Rs. 5,000 for Tamil, Rs. 2,500 for Hindi and Rs. 2,000 for Telugu. It is, however, not known as to who were the recipients of these prizes and when this system of awards was abandoned.9

<sup>\*</sup> The **Pensionnat** and the free school attached to it remained with the sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny till 1903, after which it was brought under secular management.

<sup>\*\*</sup> In Mahe and Yanam similar bodies known as 'Comité d'Instruction Publique' were set up in the year 1880.

The post-1843 period is notable for the rapid increase in the number of schools. In 1844, the sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph de Nevers opened a maison d'education in Karaikal. The Petit Séminaire Collège in Pondicherry was also founded the same year. On 17 February 1848 a free primary school was opened in Yanam to teach French and Telugu. On 28 October 1854, Goubert, an advocate, was authorised to open an upper primary school for girls in Pondicherry. A few months later i.e. on 27 January 1855, one Mme. Colombet was declared competent to teach in her upper primary school for girls. Her school neither produced satisfactory results nor had a long lease of life.

On 10 November 1849 the sisters of Saint Joseph de Lyon were authorised to start at Yanam a free girls' school open to all children. On 14 February 1873, the girls' school founded by Zamindar Manion China Cacaya in Mahe was placed under the management and supervision of the sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph d'Annecy. This school was open only to caste children. On 30 October 1871 an agreement was reached between the Administration and the Congregation of the sisters of St. Coeur de Marie on the question of running some schools for girls. On 5 July 1877, a girls' school was opened in Mahe by the sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph de Cluny. This school was open to children of all castes.

Collège Calvé was opened in 1875 by Calvé Soupraya Chettiar for the education of caste Hindus. To begin with, it functioned as a private grant-in-aid school (1875–1877). The arrêté of 2 May 1877 placed it under public management. It was managed for sometime by members of a Congregation (1877–1880). An English section was opened in 1880 to prepare students for the Matriculation Examination of Madras University. In accordance with the terms of an agreement signed on 24 January 1885, the heirs of Calvé Soupraya Chettiar gave away the institution to the government. The school was then upgraded into an upper primary school and thrown open to children of all castes.

The free school run for the children of Valangaimougattars in ville blanche since 1828 was reorganised in 1877. But in January 1880 it was named Ecole primaire des garçons and thrown open to children of all communities without distinction.10

The Collège Royal resuscitated in 1826 began to languish after some years and in 1840 there were only 12 students. Probably to remedy the situation, the college was handed over to the priests of Missions Etrangères in 1846. It continued under them upto 1879 and then passed on to the Pères du Saint Esprit with whom it remained till 1887 when it was once again returned to the fathers of Missions Etrangères with whom it remained till 1899 when it was brought under secular management.

It must be noted that in the meanwhile new courses of education, not covered by the arrêté of 1843, were introduced. Law courses were started by the arrêté of 5 June 1838. Similarly, courses in medicine were started in 1863. The examination known as Brevet de capacité de l'enseignement secondaire, introduced in certain other colonies as early as in 1837 (by the décret of 23 December 1837) was introduced in Pondicherry by the décret of 18 November 1863. This diploma which was equivalent to baccalauréat was not accepted in other colonies unless the candidates passed a qualifying test in France. But this requirement to sit for a test in France was abolished by the decree of 26 October 1871.

Although the administration gave far more importance to French education, only those interested in a political career, and those seeking jobs in administration and wishing to join the fraternity of lawyers, teachers, etc., were interested in learning French and their number was always very small. Moreover the geographical position of these settlements lying scattered amidst the vast British territory, their isolation, their economic dependence on British-India—all these factors were responsible for slowing down the spread of French education.

The developments in the field of education since 1843, the haphazard growth of schools and the state of affairs of educational institutions called for a general reform. In order to study the situation first-hand, Gramboulan, an Inspecteur-d'académie, was sent on a mission by the Ministre de la Marine et des Colonies in 1879. He visited Pondicherry and two other establishments and submitted a report which dealt with French education in secondary and primary schools and also English education. All aspects of school education came under a thorough probe.

There were at that time 227 private schools and 38 government schools. Three of them, viz. Collège Calvé and Pensionnat des Jeunes Filles in Pondicherry and the boys school in Chandernagore were upper primary schools. Although the administration spent as much as 91,774 francs on primary education the state of affairs was far from satisfactory. The enrolment in private schools (7088) was two and a-half-times more than in government schools. The general and cleanliness state of discipline, morality schools was better than public schools. No proper attention was paid to the teaching of French. The students were unable to write even one word correctly in French. The schools were not well located and not provided with stationaries and material. The teachers were ill-qualified and adequate inexperienced. The administration spent as much as 53,000 francs per annum for secondary education. In spite of it, the standard of secondary education was very low with very poor results. There were at that time only 141 students in all and Gramboulan wanted the number to be raised to 200. He also called for improvement in the standard of education and increase in the strength of scholarship holders. He also suggested the opening of a small college in Karaikal within the same budget provision. In the light of these findings Gramboulan suggested the opening of more primary schools under government auspices, recruitment of competent teachers and enhancement of emoluments. their

Following the report of Gramboulan, an attempt was made to enable primary and upper primary teachers to qualify themselves. In order to facilitate these two categories, a diploma course known as **Brevet de Capacité pour l'Instruction primaire** was introduced by the **arr**êté of 3 November 1879.11 Very soon i. e., with effect from 1 October 1880, these diplomas came to be recognised as equivalent to similar diplomas awarded in France and all such diploma holders came to enjoy the same benefits as their counterparts in France.12

In the meanwhile, a draft decree was prepared by the **Directeur de** l'Intérieur for the complete reorganisation of the educational system and sent to France in July 1880, with a view to replacing the previous ordinance of 30 September 1843 then in force. However, nothing concrete emerged out of France till 1884 when the administration came forward to issue an arrêté to improve the system of primary education. A new syllabus was drawn up; duties of teachers and students were defined. This order came to be enforced only in Pondicherry and Karaikal. 13 Schools in Mahe and Yanam were governed by the arrêtés of 5 December 1881 and 7 July 1882 respectively.

Gramboulan's report said nothing about school inspection although there was no proper control over schools. In fact the situation had become so deplorable that it was proposed to provide for periodical inspection fof all In February 1884, Perdijon, the Ex-Directeur du Collège Calvé, was schools. asked by the Directeur de l'Intérieur to carry out an inspection of schools, only four years after Gramboulan's visit. His report provided some very humorous vignettes of the state of affairs of schools. Attendance in schools was very poor. The teachers were mostly unqualified; except schools run by the nuns, no other school maintained any register, mark list or even daily and monthly work schedules. In one school, the teacher was almost deaf and dumb. Neither the working hours nor the number of holidays were fixed. In Ambagarattur one had to go in search of the school as it had been swept away by thunderstorm. Even if one succeeded in locating the school and some students, the teacher would be missing-he would be on his way to Nallambal to buy medicine. In Nallattur, the school was kept open for the simple reason that it was not provided with a door. But there were neither teachers nor students. In Tirumalarajanpattinam, where the boys' school had on its roll 162 students and four teachers, there was no headmaster. Everyone behaved as he liked, came and went at his convenience, worked or slept as he deemed fit and allowed or sent away students at his pleasure. In the light of his findings Perdijon stressed the need for an efficient system of school inspection. The administration also realised very soon the need to provide for a regular system of inspection. The very next year Perdijon himself was appointed Inspector of Primary Schools and his duties were defined by the arrêté of 20 February 1885.14 It was also felt necessary to bring about some uniformity in the system of primary education to rationalise the functioning of schools and to differentiate primary education from upper primary education (études élémentaires et supérieures) in all the establishments. In fact six arratés were issued on 25 March 1885 to streamline the whole structure of education. The first dealt with primary education for boys and girls, conditions for their admission, standard of cleanliness, penalties, holidays, vacation, maintenance of registers, etc. 15 Under the second arrêté, the framework of primary school education came to consist of four stages lasting 5 years as shown below:

Cours préparatoire ... Two years
Cours élémentaire ... One year
Cours moyen ... One year
Cours supérieur ... One year

The curriculum included intellectual, moral as well as physical education. All the subjects were taught in the French medium from 'Cours élémentaire' apart from the local language. 16

The third arrêté introduced the examination known as Certificat d'études primaires élémentaires. 17 The fourth introduced the Certificat d'études primaires supérieures which was to be awarded after four years, i.e. a two-year course of Cours complémentaires and another two-year course of Cours Supérieur which had three branches viz. one for teaching (Cours normal), another for professional courses (Cours professionnel) and the third for matriculation (Cours de matriculation). The fifth arrêté regulated the salary and service conditions of teachers. The salary of teachers was made attractive. 18 The arrêté of 13 April 1885 introduced the examinations known as Brevet Elémentaire and Brevet Supérieur which were equivalent to similar examinations held in France. The same arrêté also introduced the examination known as Certificat d'aptitude pédagogique. 19

Although the administration was keen to open more schools, lack of financial resources seem to have stood in the way. Hence it came forward to encourage private institutions which were assisted with subventions. This was the object of the arrété of 27 December 1885 which provided for sanctioning grants to private schools. 20 About the same time, the question of appointing a Lady Inspector of Schools for Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam came up for consideration as 10 or 11 year old brahmin and muslim girls disappeared whenever they saw a man in the premises of the school.21 But no decision seems to have been arrived at. By now the reorganisation of the system of education in the colony was almost complete. Since then no major development took place in the field of education for the next seven to eight years.

The subject 'Public Instruction' was all along the concern of the Directeur de l'Intérieur. This arrangement was last confirmed by the decree of 24 June 1879. However by the decree of 11 March 1898 the subject was taken away from him and handed over to an Inspecteur Primaire who was granted an independent status for the first time. He also came to be known as Chef du Service de l'Instruction Publique and enjoyed the same powers as exercised by the Inspecteur d'académie in France.

The existence of so many arrêtés dealing with the system of education was found very cumbersome. The administration therefore wanted to consolidate all the different arrêtés and bring out a comprehensive measure. This was provided for by the decree of 1 February 1893 promulgated by the arrêté of 25 March 1893.22 The same décret provided for a 14-member Conseil Colonial de l'Instruction Publique which replaced the Commissions set up earlier. The same décret declared education compulsory for Europeans, their descendants and renonçants. Five years later it was made compulsory for all by the decree of 24 May 1898. But this seems to have remained only on paper.

By about 1899, there was a feeling in the Ministry in France that Pondicherry, while spending considerable amount on secondary education, had badly neglected primary education. 23 Consequently it was decided to dispense with secondary education in the colony. In pursuance of this decision, secondary education was done away with. 24 However the English Section of Collège Calvé continued to function. 25 The subsidy granted to the Missions Etrangères to run Collège Colonial was also discontinued. 26 But very soon there was popular outcry against the abolition of secondary education. Sensing the trend of public opinion, the Conseil Général unanimously recommended its restoration. Consequently it was restored in 1900.27

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The period following the proclamation of the Third Republic is significant in another respect also. The movement for the laicisation of educational institutions which gained currency after the proclamation, gained momentum especially under Jules Ferry, the then Minister for Education in France. The events there had its repercussions in Pondicherry as well. Collége Calvé Souprayachetty which was under the management of a religious congregation since 1877 was brought under the control of the Commission d'Instruction Publique which placed it under the management of a European layman.28 In September 1899 education in Collège Colonial was laicised.29 This development coincided with the abolition of secondary education in the French establishments and the cancellation of subvention granted to the priests for running the college. In spite of some resistance from the congregation of sisters, girls' schools in the establishments were laicised between 1903 and 1904, thus completing the process of laicisation in the establishments. 30

Some of the important developments in the field of education during the next three decades are summed up below:

9	November	1903	The system of awarding Certificat d'études secondaires du 1er cycle to candidates studying in Troisième as was in vogue in France was introduced from the academic year 1903–1904.
18	June	1903	Secondary education known as Cours Secondaires was introduced in Karaikal.
1	February	1904	A two-year course was introduced in <b>Pensionnat des Jeunes Filles</b> and in a Girls' School, in rue Candappa for the training of French and Tamil lady teachers respectively.
7	December	1905	Students of Baccalauréat de l'enseignement secon- daire were given the option to choose Tamil as second language.
30	December	1911	A system of examination was introduced to facilitate the recruitment of teachers for secondary and primary schools.
19	February	1912	Conseil Colonial de l'Instruction Publique re-organised. This was an advisory body with jurisdiction over every branch of education except law and medicine.
22	January	1913	The two-year course known as Brevet Supérieur was introduced in Pensionnat des Jeunes Filles for the benefit of girls.
31	May	1913	The system of examination of Brevet Élémentaire and Brevet Supérieur modified.
24	May	1913	A special examination was introduced to facilitate candidates to obtain Certificat d'aptitude pédagogique for recruitment as teachers.
8	October	1915	The examination known as Certificat d'études primaires de langue indigène was introduced.
25	September	1920	The local cadre of teachers was reorganised and their pay scales revised.

8	September	1925	The system of examinations of <b>Brevet Élémentaire</b> and <b>Brevet Supérieur</b> brought in line with that of France.
26	August	1928	Following the reorganisation of <b>Baccalaur</b> éat de <b>l'enseignement secondaire</b> in France by the décret of August 1927, the new system was introduced here by the décret of 26 August 1928.
8	June	1935	A one-year course known as Cours normal was introduced for the training of French teachers.

In 1900, there were 50 public and 222 private schools in the establishments.31 While the number of government schools increased to 56 in 1932, the number of private schools declined to 171 in 1910 and then to 72 in 1920. 32 Many of these schools were known as école de poyale (thinnai palligal). It is interesting to note that the sharp decline in the number of such schools was due to the improvement in the system of school inspections. Moreover the total number of students also declined from 15,876 in 1900 to 13,880 in 1922. However, the sharp decline is reflected only in the number of boys whereas there was a marginal increase in the number of girl students i.e. the number of boys declined from 11,553 in 1900 to 9,402 in 1922. During the same period, the number of girl students increased from 4,320 to 4,478.

The condition of teachers during this period, especially during the First World War had become deplorable on account of the very poor salary paid to them and the enormous increase in the cost of living. Many teachers gave up their jobs and there was an exodus towards Indo-China in search of better prospects. It was in order to stem this tide that the pay scales of teachers was revised by the arrêté of 25 September 1920.

It was mentioned earlier that the Inspecteur Primaire was declared Chef du Service de l'Instruction Publique in 1898 and as such exercised control over primary as well as secondary education. A question arose as to how he could exercise such power when he was not competent to deal with secondary education. In order to remedy the situation, the Directeur du Collège de Pondichéry was conferred in 1908 the status of Chef du Service de l'Instruction Publique with powers to exercise control over all educational institutions in the

establishments.33 However all appointments and transfers were issued under the orders of the Governor. The approval of Inspecteur Primaire was necessary in the case of appointments and transfers of staff of primary schools. The educational system in the establishments was governed by directions issued from France.

Experience further showed that the Chef du Service could not exercise proper control over institutions in the outlying regions in view of their distance differences of language, customs and conventions. He was therefore empowered in 1911 to delegate his powers to 'Délégués' who inspected the schools within their jurisdiction and submitted their reports to the Chef du Service.34

Another significant development was the spread of secondary education during this period. Among the factors which contributed to the spread of secondary education, we may mention the introduction of Brevet Supérieur for girls in Pensionnat des Jeunes Filles (1913) and the introduction of Cours Secondaires in Karaikal (1918).

Addressing the Conseil General in 1936, Governor Crocicchia stated that he was 'amazed to see the vast majority of the population still illiterate'.35 He pointed out that the administration could provide education only to 11,500\* children out of 45,000 in the establishments. It appears that the number of schoolgoing children had remained stagnant at 16,500 for almost 35 years (1902-37). He attributed it to lack of facilities such as buildings, etc. Governor Crocicchia further pointed out that an amount of Rs. 4,07,000 representing about 12 per cent of the budget was spent on men and materials. Yet in all only 150 students had enrolled for Certificats d'études français et indigènes, 27 for Brevet Élémentaire, two for Brevet Supérieur and eight for Baccalauréat (complete). Pushing further his analysis, he showed that it worked out to an expenditure of Rs. 2,500 to turn out one candidate of certificat d'études whereas in France only one fourth of it was required. In the light of these facts the Governor put forward some suggestions for the growth of education in the establishments. This included carrying out some improvements in Collége Calvé, opening of a big school for girls in Pondicherry, opening of a mixed school each in Abhishekapakkam, Muttirapalaiyam and T.R. Pattinam.

<sup>\*</sup> This did not include the 5,500 students in private schools.

It is not known to what extent the scheme of expansion drawn up during the time of Crocicchia was carried out. But the programme of work drawn up under FIDES in 1949 included the construction of 12 schools in Pondicherry, seven in Karaikal and expansion works in Yanam.36 Nevertheless the number of school-going children was 9,528 in March 1949 and 10,843 in March 1950\*. The number of students in primary schools however increased by 1,315. In order to meet the situation, two new schools were established, one each at Kovilpattu and Nallambal. This raised the number of primary schools to 74. The establishment of five other schools under FIDES at Kattukkuppam, Karaiyamputtur, Kariyamanikkam, Madukkarai and Karikilambakkam was also contemplated. Coinciding with the opening of a centre in Pondicherry for holding the Baccalauréat examination in 1952 there was a marked increase since then in the number of students aspiring to prosecute higher studies in France.

#### Culture

The cultural history of the territory may perhaps be studied under three distinct periods viz., under prehistoric, historic and modern periods. While we may draw up a picture of the cultural life of the people in this part of the country during the last two stages, it is difficult to visualise the life of the people during prehistoric times. Although as many as 32 prehistoric sites have been identified around Pondicherry, no specific study of the cultural life of the people in this part of the country has so far been undertaken.37 Nevertheless, by putting together the findings of the various excavations carried out in and around Pondicherry, with similar findings elsewhere in the country we may conjure up an image of the life of the people during prehistoric times.

The findings of Suttukanni seem to indicate the existence of a neolithic settlement in the region. The neolithic people were no longer hunters. They were getting accustomed to a settled life as agriculturists. They were more vegetarian and less carnivorous. They must have developed some fascination for colour, especially with articles for domestic use. The small tools were made of beautiful agate, chalcedony besides stone and rock crystal. Wood must have undoubtedly been used along with stones but being less durable may not have come down to us.

<sup>\*</sup> Presumably this did not include students in private schools.

The discovery of iron implements in the megalithic tombs of Suttukanni seems to indicate that the people here must have been acquainted with iron making. It is however difficult to determine the beginning of the use of a particular metal from its presence with a particular set of people at a particular point of time. The beginning of metal for general use as distinguished from articles of ornamentation is said to have come into vogue gradually after the people had become adept in the art of perfecting stone implements, taken to a settled life, learnt the art of weaving garments, begun to use pottery and gradually invented the use of the wheel for making it quicker at the end of the Neolithic age.

According to *Manimekalai* which throws light on many pre-Aryan cultural traditions, the people in those days resorted to the disposal of the dead by cremation, exposure in an open place to be eaten by jackals and vultures, burial, stuffing the corpse in natural pits or burying them in big urns. If so, the people who lived here were not Hindus. The religious belief of the primitive people who constructed the megalithic tombs must have been based on the belief of man's life after death. The natural outcome of the belief was the practice of building tombs meant to safeguard the remains of the dead.

'If we accept the postulate that the literature of a people of a particular period not only portrays contemporary life and events but may also embody in it earlier traditions, and that the advanced state of civilisation which we find in the Sangam period probably had its origin much earlier, we may place the earlier limits of the megalithic and urn cultures which seems to have been a dominant factor of early Tamil civilisation in the pre-Sangam epoch i.e. earlier perhaps than the last three centuries B.C. and earlier, too, than effective 'Aryan' contact with South India.'38

Similarly again if Sangam literature is ascribed to the first three centuries of the Christian era, we may assume that it relates the life and culture of the people as it prevailed during this period as well as one or two centuries prior to this era. 'There is perfect concord between the data relating to the Tamil kings and the life of the Tamils as depicted in the Sangam anthologies on one side and the writing of the classical authors of the early centuries of the Christian era (notably) the compiler of the Periplus and Ptolemy and the finds of Roman coins of the early Imperial period on the other.'39 Interestingly it has been suggested that during the Sangam period the country surrounding Virampattinam near Pondicherry must have been

ruled by *Velir* kings and that the Sangam poets Veerai Velianar (author of poem 320 in Purananooru) and Veerai Velian Thithanar (author of poem 188 in Agananooru) must have lived in this part of the country.40 It may therefore be accepted that what the Sangam literature portrayed was also the culture which existed in this part of the country between the III century B.C. and the III century A.D.

There is also a striking correspondence between the evidence of the Sangam poems on trade and other relations of the Tamil states with the Yavanas (the Greeks and Romans) and that of the classical writers on the same subject particularly Strabo, the anonymous author of the Periplus of the Erythrean Sea, Pliny and Ptolemy which show beyond doubt that the period of Sangam literature belonged to the age of classical writers mentioned above. The archaeological findings of Arikamedu near Pondicherry only confirm the evidence of literature.

The gradual percolation of 'Aryan' ideas into the Tamil culture is noticeable in the different strata of Sangam literature. The earliest stratum of Tamil literature shows the influence of the growing religions of the north and the date of this active penetration of Brahmanical, Buddhist and Jain religions into the South may well be placed in the last three centuries before Christ. As we approach the close of the period the influence of these ideas gets more and more marked until the two cultures become thoroughly intermingled.41

The findings of Arikamedu 'apart from corroborating certain of the cultural ramifications portrayed in the Sangam literature, such as the maritime trade that this ancient sea-port town (Ptolemy's Poduke) had with foreign countries, particularly the Mediterranean world, shed some side-light on the script and the language of the people then in vogue in this part of the peninsula'.42

Nilakanta Sastri thinks that the short Brahmi inscriptions found in natural rock caverns in the hills of the south resemble that of the inscriptions from Bhattiprolu and may well be assigned to the second century B.C. The later inscriptions may be taken to be of the third century A.D. like the one at the Ariccalur cave in Coimbatore District. 'The Brahmi graffiti found on the pottery from Arikamedu excavations may be taken also to belong to this class of inscriptions. They are definitely datable to about A.D. 50 and fall chronologically about the middle of the period covered by these records.'43

According to Nilakanta Sastri, 'the script of these inscriptions is Brahmi of the southern variety, the language employed in them is Tamil in its formative stages except in two graffiti from Arikamedu in Prakrit. The writing was alphabetic and already included signs for peculiarly Dravidian sounds, .......and n. Soft consonants are totally absent, and aspirated ones virtually so but for dha and tha. There are two other notable features in the earlier records, the absence of the doubling of consonants, and the lengthening of a before the unvoiced consonant, e.g., tandai for tandai. These developments (and others not detailed here) must have resulted from a process of trial and error extending perhaps over several generations.'44

Writing about the scripts in and around India, V. Kannaiyan points out that the language of the Tamil Nadu cave inscriptions is Tamil and it satisfies the model found in the Tolkappiyam. According to him a comparison of these inscriptions with the script employed by Asoka seemed to show that the script employed by Asoka in the third century B.C. was but a sophisticated variety of the Tamil Nadu cave script. A comparison of the script employed by the potter in Arikamedu near Pondicherry to write down his name on the pots he made with the Tamil Nadu cave script is interesting and revealing. Except for very slight changes, the script remains the same. The script on the mud pots which are dated to about the first century A.D. seems to be only a slightly developed common man's script, showing thus the evolution of the 'Pondicherry-Arikamedu Pot Script' from the 'Tamil Nadu Cave Script' and the Brahmi of the Asokan edicts. Thus according to him the Tamil Nadu Cave Script was borrowed and adopted by Asoka (Brahmi Script) in the third century B.C. and then was used by the common man like the potter in Pondicherry in the first century A.D.45

Coming down to the second stage, it could be seen that the Pallava monarchs recognised and encouraged individual learning in accordance with the noble tradition set forth by Kautilya viz. the learned in the Vedas shall be granted brahmadeya lands yielding sufficient produce and exempted from taxes and fines. Such a grant of land to learned Brahmans was known as bhattavritti and the endowment was not merely a reward of learning but an honorarium for free imparting of knowledge. An example of a bhattavritti is contained in the Kasakkudi plates of Pallava Malla where the extraordinary accomplishments of the donee are narrated reflecting as it were the cultural milieu to which he belonged.46 The Vidyastana of Bahur already an established institution of Sanskrit learning in the eighth century, stands as a remarkable edifice of Pallava culture.

The Chola period may have been a highly creative epoch. The names of some literary works are preserved casually in some of the Chola inscriptions found in the temples. These works are altogether unknown otherwise. However the names of these works and the occasion for their being mentioned in inscriptions give us some idea of the extent of popular interest in literary productions. One of these inscriptions mentions about Kulottunga Chola caritai by Thirunarayana bhatta in Tirubhuvanai and the poet was given as reward (sar kâram) land of the extent of half a nilam and two mas by the sabha of the village, the land being always assessable only at the rate prevailing for the twelfth grade. The award was made by the sabha in accordance with an order from the king requiring them to adjudge the kavya and reward the author suitably.47 Again it is said that Kuthan or Ottakoothan came of a class of Sengundar who seem to have pursued the occupations of fighting in the army of privates and captains and of weaving. Born in a family in Malari, an obscure village in the Chola country, he sought service under Sankaran, the chieftain of Puthuvai and father of Sadaiyan, the patron of the more celebrated Kamban. A certain Gangeyan soon discovered that Kuthan was destined for a higher purpose than household service under Sankaran and Kuthan expressed his gratitude by composing the Nalayirakkovai on his patron Gangeyan. Another patron of Kuthan was a certain Soman of Puthuyai i.e. Tirubhuvanai near Pondicherry, 48

Two inscriptions of the period of Kulottunga Chola-I (12 th century) in the Padaleeswarar temple at Thirupathiripuliyur refer to a 'Veerai Thalaivan Parasamaya Kolari Mamuni, a poet who is said to be the author of Astadasapuranam, Kannivana puranam and poompuliyoor natakam. The poet is also said to belong to Virampattinam otherwise called Veerai near Pondicherry. 49

An idea of the popularity of dance and music during the Chola days could be formed from the stone carvings on the southern, western and northern facades of Bahur temple which depict different mudras of natya which must have been popular in those days. The details of costumes, decoration and ornaments bespeak of a highly developed state of natya sastra in tenth century Pondicherry. 50 All these go to show the high level of the cultural attainments of the people of this part of the country during the Pallava and Chola days.

A glimpse of the cultural attainments of the people during the Vijayanagar days could be had from an inscription of Tiruvandarkovil which records that Tirubuvanamadevi caturvedi mangalam had an assembly consisting of 4,000 men (217 of 1917). 'A high standard of qualification was expected of its members. They were expected to have studied the four vedas; a few of them were required to have a good knowledge of the Sadangas as well; otherwise they were expected to have acquired a good knowledge relating to the conduct of sacrifices and performed them. They were also expected to have, besides these cultural attainments, a good physique and a strong constitution to bear the fatigue of their work.'51 Thus from time immemorial this part of the country has remained a cradle of civilisation.

Mandala Purudar, the author of Soodamani Nigandu, is said to belong to 'Veerai' in Thondaimandalam. It is likely that this 'Veerai' is the same as Virampattinam. He is believed to have written the Nigandu during the Vijayanagar period in the early part of the XVI century (sometime around 1520 A.D.).

Coming down to the modern period, which coincides with the arrival of Europeans on the Coromandel Coast, Pondicherry is thrown open to a new influence. In fact the story of the French presence in Pondicherry is the most exciting phase in its history in which travellers, missionaries, explorers, adventurers, traders and others played their different roles in adding a new facet to its cultural image.

According to historians François Martin de Vitre who sailed from St. Malo on 18 May 1601 along with François Pyrad de Laval aboard the Croissant, was the first Frenchman to publish in 1604 a description of his travel to the Orient (Description du premier voyage fait aux Indes Orientales par les Français en l'an 1603). He was followed by Augustin de Beaulieu (1616-1622), Jean Baptiste Tavernier (1641-1666), Jean de Thevenot (1666), François Bernier (1670-1671), Abbé Carré (1672-1674) and so many others. influence of Tavernier, induced François Colbert who came under the Charpentier, the Academician to write out a code of instructions to be followed by traders going to the new country and had it published at the king's expense. It was flamboyantly titled as 'A Discourse of a faithful subject of the King touching upon the establishment of a French Company for the East India Trade addressed to all Frenchmen.' Curon (Fieur) and Harpe (de la) gave their fellow countrymen more information about India through their 'Journal des voyages des Grandes Indes' published in the year 1698.

The image projected by the travellers is said to have had its reflection in XVII century French literature. La Fontaine's acquaintance with François Bernier, philosopher and scholar of the period, extended his intellectual horizon by a study of India and its culture. Many of his fables bear much resemblance to Indian fables and tales particularly the Jatakas, stories from Mahabaratha. Panchatantra, etc. 52

Till the end of the seventeenth century India was known only from the published records of travellers. A systematic and scientific study of Indian civilisation was initiated in France since the beginning of the eighteenth century. As part of their efforts, scholars in Paris planned to collect the treasures of eastern literature, science and philosophy. In 1718, Abbé Bignon, custodian of the manuscripts of the Royal Library, planned to purchase all the chief works of literature from India and Indo-China and asked Etienne Fourmont, a Professor of Collège Royal, to draw up a fist of such works. Travellers were directed to purchase these precious books including grammars and dictionaries. Some of them were purchased by Roman Catholic missionaries who were stationed at Bengal and South India.53 Thus Fr. Calmette obtained copies of Rig Veda, Yajur Veda and Sama Veda from South India. Chandernagore, Fr. Pons was able to collect the main works of the different branches of classical Sanskrit literature, epics, Puranas, Vyakarana, Nataka, Alankara, Vedanta and Nyaya.54 Most of the Indian manuscripts were either in Sanskrit or in Tamil. The same Fr. Pons happens to be the first Sanskrit Grammarian in India for he was the author of a Sanskrit grammar written in Latin based on the Samksiptasara and a Latin translation of the Amarakosa. A catalogue of all these manuscripts was published in 1739. The first Sanskrit grammar in a European language was first published in France. Milliet was another French scholar who evolved a comparative grammar of the Dravidian languages earlier than Caldwell.

In the second half of the XVIII century, Joseph Deguignes, Head of the Department of Syrian Language (Titulaire d'une chaire de Syriaque de 1757 à 1773) was the first to understand and to proclaim the scope of knowledge of the Asian people beyond the Greco-roman or Christian horizon. 55 He wanted to enlarge the traditional scope of history by bringing within its ambit the study of the remotest parts of Asia, 'In a subsequent work, thanks to a communication kindly sent to him of a translation of the Tamil 'B. gavadam' Deguignes was able to fix the major synchronism

by which Indian Chronology was linked with the universal one.\* He communicated his discovery to the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, Paris in 1772 and his lecture was published in the Memoires of this Academy in 1777 under the title: Réflexions sur un livre intitulé Bagavadam.

Anquetil Duperron (1731-1805) was one of the first to put the fundamental texts of Indian philosophy at the disposal of western thinkers. He came to India in 1755 in pursuit of the wisdom of the East. He learnt Persian and tried Sanskrit in vain. But the British occupation of Pondicherry in 1761 shortened his stay in India. He returned to France penniless but with a rich collection of manuscripts, as many as 180 in different languages, including several dictionaries. Anquetil Duperron also secured Zend Avesta, the Parsi's sacred book and had it explained by the Indian Parsis and published it in France in 1771. He also translated fifty Upanishads into Latin.

Le Gentil, a member of the Académie Royale des Sciences, came to Pondicherry in March 1768 at the instance of the King of France to make an on-the-spot study of the passage of the Venus across the Sun.56 He gave an account of what he learnt and saw in his book 'Voyages dans les mers de l'Inde' published in Paris in the year 1774. In this book, he gave a substantial account of Indian astronomy and of the religion and customs of the people on the Coromandel Coast.

The traveller and naturalist Sonnerat first drew the attention of the West to the fact that full information on Indian culture was easier to obtain from South India than from any other part of India before the foundation of the Asiatic Society at Calcutta.57 Sonnerat was so well disposed towards the people of India that he considered them to be the most ancient and the author of all other civilisations. He affirmed that it was its philosophy and sciences and not its riches which attracted the Europeans to India through the centuries.58 The interest in Oriental or Indian studies thus stimulated chiefly by Deguignes and Anquetil Duperron was followed up in an organised manner by Collège de France where the study was pursued by A.L. de Chézy and his disciples Eugène Burnouf, Ariel and many others.

<sup>\*</sup> This translation into French was due to Maridas Pillai, a Tamil scholar of Pondicherry.

The flow of men and ideas from France on the other hand slowly gave rise to a new cultural milieu in Pondicherry. With the arrival of the French, a number of inter-racial marriages took place which gave rise to a new type of population known as the 'Topas' who adopted with alacrity the French mode of life. As early as in 1704, in the five companies consisting of 90 men, there were as many as 36 so-called 'Topas'.

The carpenters and blacksmiths who accompanied the early French settlers introduced in Pondicherry the tradition of French workmanship through their children and apprentices. Buildings were constructed according to the 'roman style' with 'terrasses recouvertes d'argamasse. One other craft which left its impact in the town was that of carpentry. Some of the natives also started dressing like the French.59 By 1747, almost one-sixth of the local population was converted to Christianity. The church dedicated to St. Lazare known as the malabar church had a great influence over the life of early christians. Quite a number of missionaries acquired a mastery of the Tamil language. As early as in 1703 le Père de la Lane had learnt Tamil in order to carry on his mission of conversion.

It appears that the book entitled 'Grammaire pour apprendre la langue tamoule vulgairement appelée le malabare a copy of which is found in the Bibliothèque Nationale was written by P.de la Lane in the year 1728 as evident from a reference on the manuscript. The same priest is also reported to have written a Telugu dictionary. Probably it is the work entitled 'Grammaire pour apprendre la langue Télenga dite vulgairement le Badega faite à Pondichéry en l'an 1729 which is also preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale.60 These manuscripts were not published. Just about the time when the French priests were engaged in the collection of manuscripts and grammars for Paris, one among them viz. Father de Bourges, or more exactly de Bourzes, is known to have been engaged in compiling a great lexicographical work like Beschi. He compiled a 'Dictionnaire Tamoul-Français' a copy of which is reportedly preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.\* This too was never printed but is said to have been largely used later by the lexicographers Mousset and Dupuis. Rev. H. Hosten S.J. in his report submitted to the Indian Historical Records Commission in January 1922, refers to a volume of French-Tamil Dictionary which he thinks must have been composed by the same

<sup>\*</sup> Manuscrits indien 213-214, 2 volumes, 1104 pages.

Father de Bourges.61 Wilson's Descriptive Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts collected by Col. Mackenzie, also refers to a Tamil-French dictionary. This dictionary which bears the year 1744 is said to be a product of the Jesuit missionary Beschi. The same catalogue also refers to another French-Tamil dictionary the compiler of which is not known.62

A picture of the cultural life of the people in Pondicherry around eighteenth century is available from the Diary of Anandarangapillai. Musical performances to celebrate festive occasions seem to have become almost a regular feature in the town.63 We have it from the mouth of this chronicler that Dupleix' efforts to uphold the prestige of Pondicherry, his determination to take the city of Madras and the unexpected success of his plans were the themes of songs which were composed and sung in the town.64 The successful resistance of the British siege of Pondicherry was celebrated with the recital of poems, dance and music.65 Musicians from Europe who were in town performed on the occasion of the anniversary of the English defeat and flight. Rangapillai also refers to music performances accompanied by the 'Vina' and other instruments.66 Royal dignitaries visiting Pondicherry were often entertained to music and dance.67

On another occasion Rangapillai speaks of a musical performance rendered before Governor Dupleix by two musicians named Kasturi Rangaiyan and Venkata Naranappa Aiyan. The performance, first held at the residence of Anandarangapillai, seems to have caused almost a sensation that several of the people had learnt the songs by heart. The Governor himself evinced so much interest and enquired whether the songs which were in Telugu, could be composed in Tamil. The Governor further suggested some changes to be made in the songs so as to extoll the glory of the French in more glowing terms. 68

Temples were in fact the crucibles of cultural arts like music and dance which were closely linked to the institution of devadasis. The fact that Rangi, a dancing girl of Pondicherry, having died without heirs, had left her money to a naturanar, a dance teacher, is indicative of the popularity of dance in those days. 69 Since those days we are sure that temples continued to patronise music and dance especially during festivals.

There were already symptoms of intellectual intercourse between France and Pondicherry. Books published in France were soon after available in Pondicherry.70

Pillai himself was a highly cultured man. He had the highest regard for Kural as seen from the way he held in esteem Madras Sittukkadu Chinnatambi Mudali who could recite by heart all the couplets of Kural and had learnt their truth by experience and could expound them from his own knowledge. The meeting with Chinnatambi Mudali, at once a scholar and a man of exemplary character, is characteristic of the genuine and ardent love which Pillai had for learning.71 He could himself quote couplets from the Kural with ease.72

'Pillai was a patron of musicians and dancers and what was more, himself possessed some knowledge of music, besides taste for it.'73 On one occasion Dupleix himself pays him the compliment, as a man accomplished in this branch of fine arts.74 When it was reported that the temple at Pudupattu village of which he was the renter, did not have music and dance services, Pillai at once ordered that they might be arranged for.75

'Among the Sanskrit poets patronised by Pillai, the only writer now known is Srinivasa of Srivasta Gotra who wrote in 1752 the Ananda Ranga Vijaya Champu....76 A number of Tamil poets of the time seem to have sought the patronage of Pillai. Sadasiva Desikar, son of Vidyanatha Desikar of Tiruvarur who wrote the Ilakkana Vilakkam, composed the Anandaranga-kkovai in honour of Pillai.' Anandarangapillai again speaks of a metrical ode in Telugu composed in his honour by Kasturi Rangaiyan, a great scholar of Tiruchchirapalli. This was set to music by Tiruchchirapalli Mangapati Aiyan. Arunachala Kavirayar of Sirkazhi and the author of 'Rama Natakam' was another poet who came to Pondicherry to have his drama premiered in the sabha of Anandarangapillai as he could not perform it in the sabha of Thulasi Maharaja of Thanjayur. Anandarangapillai seems to have offered presents to the poet and told him that it would not be proper for him to witness the performance before it is seen by his friend Thulasi Maharaja and persuaded him to go to the Maharaja first. 77 Among the other Tamil poets who sought his patronage were Madura Kavi, Namachchivaya-p- pulavar and Javvadu-p-pulavar.78

Foremost among those who were instrumental in transmitting knowledge about Indian culture to France was Maridas pillai (1721-1796), an enlightened figure of eighteenth century Pondicherry. He explained to Sonnerat the meaning of the religious beliefs, customs, ceremonies and festivals of the Tamil country. It was he again who taught the rudiments of Tamil astronomy to

Le Gentil, the French astronomer. 79 It appears that it was from Maridas Pillai that Foucher d'Obsonville\* and Monneron\*\* procured the translation of some literary works. 80 He also translated into French the Bagavadam, the Tamil version of Bhagavata. His correspondence with Deguignes (1772-1777) is said to have led to the discovery of the synchronism of Chandragupta as a contemporary of Alexander the Great. This discovery, later popularised by Sir Willian Jones, established the link between Indian chronology and the general chronology of the world. Even the establishment of the resemblance of Indian astronomy with that of the old Chaldeans is attributed to him. The discovery of the affinity between Latin and Sanskrit is also attributed to Maridas Pillai of Pondicherry. He died at Pondicherry on 3 April 1796. His tomb now lies within the campus of the church in Muttiyalupettai.81

The nineteenth century stands out as a period of enlightenment. It was in the course of this century that several printing presses were set up with facilities for printing in Tamil, French, English and Telugu. A large number of books and journals were published heralding the era of mass communication. The interest shown by Frenchmen in Tamil language and culture made many people here get interested in their own language. The Eleventh part of the Soodamani Nigandu was published in 1836 with commentaries by Puduvai Nainiappa Mudaliar. It carried as a prologue a poem by Puduvai Ponnusami Mudaliar.82 The Urichol Nigandu was published only four years later at the Government Press, Pondicherry in 1840 with a commentary by Chittambalam. This dictionary is said to have been prescribed for use in schools in Pondicherry.83

It is said that Racine's 'Britannicus' rendered into Tamil by Swaminatha Pillai was enacted at Karaikal as early as in 1829 and at Pondicherry in 1837.84 'Estakier Vasahappa', a drama on the life of Sainte Eustache was written by Vallet de Virville on the traditional pattern in prose and poetry. This drama, published in the year 1837, was staged at Pondicherry in 1845.85

<sup>\*</sup> Foucher d'Obsonville was a traveller, naturalist and writer. A part of his collection of notes was published under the title "Essais Philosophiques sur les moeurs des divers animaux étrangéres.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Monneron was a member of Conseil Supérieur and then Commissaire Général des ports et arsenaux and later Ordonnateur des Etablissements.

Although it is true that many educated Tamils came to appreciate the treasures of French literature second-hand through English translations, the role of Indians themselves in popularising the master-pieces of French literature cannot be brushed aside as insignificant. More significant was the contribution of those who came under the direct impact of French language and culture. Writers like Nainiappa Mudaliar and Muthusamy Pillai of Pondicherry considered to be the products of what is called the French age in Tamil culture rose to prominence during this period. Muthusamy Pillai was an erudite scholar and a linguist who showed great interest in historical studies. He helped F.W. Ellis in his efforts at collecting palm leave manuscripts of Tamil works. His biography of Fr. Beschi is considered to be the best.

The lexicographical enterprises of the French continued even in the nineteenth century. A short Tamil-French and French-Tamil vocabulary was compiled by A. Blin in 1831.\* But the most important lexicographical works in Tamil were produced by the missionaries MM. Mousset and Dupuis. The Dictionarium latino-gallico-tamulicum (XVIII-1430 pp) was published in the year 1846 and the 'Vocabulaire français-tamoul' in 1858. The 'Dictionnaire Tamoul-Français' also attributed to the missionaries Mousset and Dupuis is a monumental work published in the year 1855 to meet the requirements of 'Ouvriers évangéliques'. The compilation of this dictionary is understood to have been carried out with the help of 'Dictionnaire de Tottler' (Dictionnaire de Jaffna), Saduragarathi of Father Beschi and the 'Dictionnaire Tamoul-Latin Litographie' of P. Gury. The dictionary also carried some lessons on grammar to facilitate a better understanding of the language. Besides the Tamil-French Dictionary, Mousset and Dupuis also compiled a shorter French-Tamil Dictionary (Dictionnaire Français-Tamoul).\*\*

Father Dupuis also re-edited the Kodun Tamil grammar of Beschi with explanatory notes and brought out a summary of Sen Tamil grammar in Latin in 1843. The 'Paramarthaguru Kathaigal' by Viramamunivar (Fr. Beschi) was also published in Pondicherry in 1845 with the original script in Latin together with a Tamil translation. Besides editing a number of Tamil books

<sup>\*</sup> Dictionnaire français-tamoul et tamoul-français, Paris 1831, IX-282 pages.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The third edition of this dictionary appeared in Pondicherry in 1952.

written by Fr. Beschi, he also published a book entitled 'Le Rev. P. Beschi et le Tembavani' which was printed in 1851 at the Pondicherry Mission Press. In 1863, he published the 'Grammaire Française-Tamoule' considered to be the most important work of the kind published in a European language. It dealt with the rules of both colloquial and literary Tamil together with prosody. It gave both the morphological technical terms from Tolkappiyam and Nannul and Latin denominations used at the moment to classify the grammatical forms. So it was possible to learn at the same time the Tamil way of rendering Latin expressions into Tamil and the much more accurate Tamil grammatical analysis. An abridged version of this grammar was brought out in 1892 by P. Lap under the title 'Abrégé de la grammaire française-tamoule.' His 'தமிழ்-பிரஞ்சு சொல் வரிசை' was published in 1904 in Pondicherry.

E. Martinet completed his three volume 'Dictionnaire de prononciation Tamoule figurée en français' in 1877. Besides dealing with the principles of Tamil grammar, the dictionary attempted to distinguish pure Tamil expressions from the colloquial. The Tamil pronunciation was given in French phonetics. A singular feature of this dictionary was that it contained an appendix of words which had no French equivalents.

Apart from those who worked for years on the grammars and dictionaries. quite a few were attracted to the Tamil language and its literature. Independently of the efforts of Burnouf and Ariel many Frenchmen were actively engaged in Tamil studies all through the XIX century. P. Perreaux published Méthode indienne pour apprendre à lire en peu de temps le in 1868 the Tamoul et le Français, a book meant to teach French and Tamil with speed and ease. Already in 1830 he had published a book on arithmetic for natives under the title 'Traité élémentaire d'ariithmétique'. Other missionaries brought out several French-Tamil as well as Tamil-French manuals. M.J. Baulex who served in the Vellore region published Vingt ans dans l'Inde. He is also noted for the translation of Panchatantra from Tamil in 1878. The book La méthode de tamoul vulgaire published in the year 1915 dealt with the pronunciation of Tamil colloquial words. Lamairesse collected a number of poems of South India and published their translation under the title of 'Poésies populaires du Sud de l'Inde (1867) and . hants populaires du Sud de l'inde (1868). He then carried out the translation of 'Tiruvarangakkalambakam', (திருவரங்கக்கலம்பகம்) 'Devadasi pattu' (தேவதாசிப்பாட்டு) and 'Teru pattu (தெருப்பாட்டு).86

B. Adam was Justice of Peace in Karaikal between 1878 and 1884. Attracted by the beauty of the language, he pushed through his studies and acquired a mastery of the Tamil language. He translated into French the biography of Tiruvalluvar. His translation of Atti Choodi, Kondrai Ventan, Vetri Verkai, Moodurai, Nalvazhi, Nanneri, Needi Neri Vilakam all of which were received well both in France and in Pondicherry.87

Julien Vinson, born of French parents in Karaikal, evinced keen interest improved considerably and his knowledge in contacts with U. V. Saminada Iyer, establishing Nagai Vedasalampillai (Maraimalai Adigal), Pandit Savarirayar, Karaikal, Ayakannu and Ayasamy Pulavar, all undisputed Tamil scholars. He taught Hindustani and Tamil at Nationale de Langues Orientales from 1879 to 1921. Le verbe dans es languages dravidiennes (1878), Légendes Bouddhistes et Djainas' (1900), a French translation of some parts of Chintamani, Cilappatikaram, Manimekalai, 'Manuel de la Langue Tamoule' (1903) are some of his other notable publications. He also wrote some short stories in Tamil and evinced keen interest in rendering the Kamba Ramayana into French. His translation of Tadagai Vadhai Padalam and Agaligai Pava Vimochana Padalam appeared in Pondicherry in 1861. It was he who copied out the text of Villai Puranam from out of the collection of Tamil manuscripts in Paris and sent it to U.V. Saminada Iyer who brought to light the fact that it was the Stalapyrana of Villiyanur.

Julien Vinson mentions that it had become almost a fashion among French officials returning to France after a short dint in French—India to dabble in writing about Hindu religion and Indian literature. According to him they were very often second-hand versions of already disproved notions. Their writings were sometimes instrumental in creating an erroneous image in the minds of the French people. In this connection, Vinson refers to the publication entitled Critique ct analyse du Ramayana de Valmiki et de Bhagavatgita (1880) by E. Lamairesse, a former Chief Engineer of the French establishments in India. 88

Two of Vinson's students, Barrique de Fontainieu and G. Devéze helped to introduce some more Tamil works to the French world. Fontainieu translated the *Inbathuppal* of *Thirukkural* into French. It will be of some interest to note that the institution known as 'Enfant de langue' was organised by the ordonnace of 29 October 1827 in order to encourage those aspiring to become public servants to learn the local language. The institution was open to

European candidates between 16 and 22 years of age. The candidates who passed out were required to serve for at least five years in French-India.89 They were taught Tamil and Hindustani and optionally Telugu. This Institution functioned in Pondicherry between 1827 and 1838, 90

The cultural history of XIX century Pondicherry will not be complete without drawing attention to Savarayalu Nayagar, the Poet Laureat of Pondicherry. Born on 9 December 1829, quite early in life he was attracted to the study of Tamil, which he came to learn under Mahavidwan Meenatchisundarampillai of Tiruchchirapalli. He rose so much in the estimation of his guru that his master sang the praise of his student in 'Savarayalu Nayagar Malai'. Mahavidwan Thiagarasa Chettiar of Kumbakonam sang the 'Irattai Mani Malai' in his honour. An ardent Christian, he wrote the Perinba Sadagham Perinba Andhadhi and Tirunavatchadagham, all in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. His discourses on Thembavani won him the appellation of Thembavani Ubadésigar. A recipient of several other awards and titles, his fame spread even to far-away France. He championed the cause of women's education and was instrumental in establishing in 1865 a girls' school in Pondicherry. His advocacy of prohibition even in those days stands as evidence of his reformatory zeal. He died on 30 January 1911 at the age of 82.91

The influence of French education and culture becomes more evident in the XX century. Under its impact many a French literary works were adapted or translated into Tamil. Victor Hugo, through his 'Les Misérables' attracted the greatest attention. Vidwan Duraiswamy Iyengar, the great Tamil novelist adapted this work in his novel entitled 'Kanakambujam' published in 1923. Yogi Sudhananda Bharathi rendered 'Les Misérables' as 'Èzhai Padum Padu' which was later filmed. The Kannadigas translated this work into Canarese under the caption 'Nonthavalvu' while the Malayalees have adapted this work in their language under the title 'Pavangal'. The same way, Molière's well known drama 'L'Avare' was translated into Malayalam as Lupthan and Lubhagresaradu in Telugu92. The 'Three Musketeers' of Dumas seems to have inspired 'Kalki' into writing his 'Ponniyin Selvan', Roger Martin du Gard's work Vieille France inspired Ka. Na. Subramanian to write his Thapalkaran. André Gide's 'La Porte Etroite' was rendered into Tamil by the same writer under the title Kurugiyapathai. Sudhananda Bharathi rendered Victor Hugo's 'l'Homme qui rit' as Illichavayan. Anatole France's 'Thais' was translated by the same writer under the capiton Thasiyum Thabasiyum. A.M. Ali rendered 'Le Comte de Monte Cristo' of Alexandre Dumas into Tamil. Sri Aurobindo's 'Rodogune' was an English adaptation of dramas bearing the same title first written by Corneille and later by Gibert.

'Horace' another important work of Corneille was rendered into Tamil as Thyagamey Perithu by M.M. Houssain and was later staged in Pondicherry. Similarly, 'Hernani' of Victor Hugo was rendered into Tamil by Dr. Sinouvasan under the title Simmavarman. 'Le Cid', a tragedy by Corneille was a source of inspiration to many. It was translated and played by André Marie under the title Vetri Veeran, while Dr. Sinouvasan rendered it under the title 'Satya Dévi'. 'Vincelas' of Rotrou was translated into Tamil as 'Needhivarman' by R. Desigampillai. Later he translated a work by Bernardin de Saint Pierre under the title of Indiyak Kudisai. Among Desigampillai's other contributions, we may mention his French translations of Andal Tiruppavai, Saraswathi Andhadhi Sakalakalavalli Malai, Thiruvilayadarpuranam, Kanchipuranam and Kandappuranam.

Several works of Emile Zola, Romain Rolland, Gustave Flaubert, Maupassant, Alphonse Daudet, Balzac etc. were made known to the Tamil world through Tamil translations. Quite apart from all these, 'Les Maximes' of La Rochefoucauld were rendered into Tamil by Alavandar. The French Romantic poetry attracted the attention of Tamil scholars conversant with French. Mudukannan rendered several of such pieces into Tamil verse. Alfred de Vigny's 'La mort du loup' rendered by him under the title 'phrudist etal' appeared in Kalaikadir. Victor Hugo's 'La mort du chien' and 'Oceano Nox' appeared as 'prudist etal' and 'Gurtaur gistuis' in Thamizh Selvi (January 1951). There is no doubt that all these works helped to spread the knowledge of French language and literature among the Tamil population.

This century also stands out as the period that gave birth to several associations devoted to the promotion of fine arts in the Territory. Mention may be made of Société Philharmonique de Pondichéry (1920), Vasoudevagana Sabai (1912), Krishna Gana Sabha (1909), Sri Samarasagnana Sangeetha Sabai (1929), Selva Vani Gana Sabha (1940) and Mangala Gana Sabha (1943). The institutions were very often the progenies of one or more connoisseurs of art. Only some of these cultural associations had a long lease of life. Most of them flourished for a few years only to go defunct after sometime either due to lack of resources or decline in the enthusiasm of their progenitors. The Thyaga Brahma Sabha started in 1946 was in receipt of financial assistance from the administration for several years to celebrate the Thyaga Brahma Aradhana in honour

of Saint Thyagaraja. The opening of the Radio Station in 1966 and the organisation of the Sangeetha Nataka Sangam the following year somewhat brightened the cultural atmosphere of the Territory.

The cultural fresco of XX century Pondicherry will not be complete without mention of some of the leading luminaries who added lustre to the cultural life of Pondicherry.

Although born at Ettayapuram in Tirunelvely District, Subramania Bharathi was one of the first to seek refuge in Pondicherry in 1908 to escape from British incarceration. He lived here under the patronage of Kuvalai Kannan, S. Swaminatha Dikshidar and Sundaresayyar who were readers of 'India', a journal with which Subramania Bharathi was closely connected while in Madras. Within a month the 'India' press was clandestinely brought to Pondicherry from Madras and the journal which had stopped appearing from the last week of September 1908 reappeared from October 20. He soon settled in a south facing house at Iswaran Dharmarajakoil street. Sri Aurobindo arrived at Pondicherry in April 1910 and since then Bharathi came more and more under the influence of Sri Aurobindo. A few months later came V.V.S Iyer. Among his disciples may be mentioned Va. Ra. Aravamudayangar popularly known as 'Amudha' and Kanakasubburathinam who later became famous as Bharadidasan.

सन्यापेन जयने

In 1911, Sub-Collector Ashe was shot dead by Vanchi Iyer at Maniyachchi junction. Following this incident the British intelligence maintained greater vigilance over political refugees in Pondicherry. During this period Sundaresayyar, Ponnu Murugesapillai and Sankara Chettiar offered help and protection to Bharathi. Kanakalingam, a Harijan, and Arumugha Chettiar were two of his other patrons.

He wrote the 'Desa Muthumari pattu' in honour of Uppalam Muthumariamman temple—a temple patronised by Harijans. So abhorred was he by castism and caste distinctions that on one occasion he donned Kanakalingam with the sacred thread after due religious ceremony and admitted him into the upper caste in deference to the belief that anyone could become a member of the upper caste by wearing the sacred thread. His 'Vedarishigal Kavıthai' and 'Patanjali yoga soothiram' and 'Kotchi' were attempts at vers libres, a poetry form which probably Bharathi learnt through his acquaintance with French literature. His frequent early morning visits to Thiagarajapillai madu provided him the inspiration to write the 'Thir ppalli ezhuchi' and 'Kalai pozhuthu'. He also published the 'Bharathi Arupatharu'. The Muttiyalupettai mango grove that belonged to Krishnasamy Chettiar provided him the scenario for his 'Kuyil pattu'. The cyclone of 22 November 1916 prompted him to write the 'Thikkukal ettum cithari' and the 'Kattradikuthu kodal kumuruthu'.

The first part of *Panchali Sabatham* appeared in 1912. His 'Puthia' Athichoodi' appeared in 1914 and 'Pappa padal' appeared in the February 1915 issue of 'Gnana Bhanu'. In November 1916 appeared the third volume of his poems.

On 20 November 1918 while he was on his way to Villiyanur he fell into the hands of the British who were all along maintaining a close watch over him. He was detained at Cuddalore Sub-Jail where he remained till 14 December (for 24 days). After his release he went to Kadayam near Tenkasi. All his subsequent attempts to have his work published did not meet with adequate public response. In 1920 he returned to Madras to work in 'Swadesamitran'. Once on a visit to the Thiruvellikeni temple, he was attacked by the temple elephant, as a result of which he died on 12 September 1921 when he was only thirtynine. It is significant that although his stay in Pondicherry lasted only a little more than 10 years, this period turned out to be the most creative in his life-time thus linking inseparably his name and poetic accomplishments with Pondicherry.

V. V. S. Iyer is another scholar patriot whose life and career is so closely linked with Pondicherry. Born on 2 April 1881, in a village near Karur, he joined the Bar at twenty. But destiny took him to London where he was drawn to the freedom movement. He escaped from London to evade arrest, wandered through Italy, Greece, Turkey and Egypt only to find shelter in Pondicherry where he arrived in November 1910 when he was only 29 years old. Iyer soon mastered French to study Napoleon's War Memoirs in the original and wrote a synthetic treatise on military strategy, adapting Napoleon's method of warfare for a war against the British rulers. He wrote the biographies of Napoleon, Garibaldi, Mazzini, Rana Pratap Singh, Chandra Gupta, etc. and wrote some short stories as well. He published his works through

'Kamban Nilayam' which he organised in Pondicherry. He began the translation of the Tamil classic 'Kural' on 1 November 1914 and completed it in five months. In 1920 he left Pondicherry for Madras where he edited Desabakthan, a Tamil daily for nine months, then spent another nine months in jail on charges of sedition. It was in those nine months that he brought out 'A study of Kamba Ramayana'. He spent his last days at the Tamil Gurukulam he organised at Sermadevi before he was drowned on 3 June 1925 in an attempt to save his ill-fated daughter Subhadra who tripped into the deep currents of the Kalyana Thirtha falls at Papanasam only five years after he left Pondicherry.

Sankardas Swamigal, the doyen of the Tamil stage and author of several dramas and poems, came to Pondicherry to perform a series of dramas only to breathe his last here on 13 November 1922. His advent into Pondicherry was in a way responsible for generating a great deal of interest in drama which came to be organised under the auspices of several nataka sabhas.

The 'Swami Vivekananda Nataka Sabha' organised by Dr. Sinouvasan and the 'Vani Vilas Sabha' started at the initiative of Dr. Sundaresan were two of the associations which popularised the drama in those days.

Kanakasuppurathinam (born on 29 April 1891) even as a child evinced a liking for Tamil literature which was so ably nurtured by Bangaru Pathar, his school teacher and subsequently reinforced by Saram Periasamipillai, a renowned Tamil scholar. He began his career as a teacher even before he was eighteen in a primary school at Niravi. His contacts with Bharathi and other freedom fighters attracted him to the cause of Indian nationalism. The 'Kadar Rattinappattu' was the result of his nationalist zeal. Enveloped as he was by the reformist zeal of Bharathi he also defended the cause of women's freedom, attacked child marriages and advocated widow re-marriage. In due course he came to call himself 'Bharathidasan'.

Inspired as he was by the age old treasures of Tamil poetry, he wrote the 'Subramania Thudiamudhu', a devotional poem in honour of the deity of Mailam in 1926. He was soon attracted to the self-respect movement of E.V. Ramassamy Naicker and took cudgels against religion and rituals. He carried on his campaign through his writings in 'Puthuvai Murasu' which started appearing from November 1931. In 1935 he was associated with 'Subramania Bharathiarin Kavithamandalam' a journal of poems blazing a new

trail in Tamil literary journalism. In 1938 appeared his first collection of poems. In July 1948, he launched a journal of poems under the name 'Kuyil' which appeared for about a year. In July 1955, he was elected to the Pondicherry Assembly. Since June 1958 he brought out his journal 'Kuyil' once again which appeared for about three years.

He also made a mark as a lyrical poet through his 'Azhagm Chirrippu' (The Laughter of Beauty) and 'Kathal Ninaivugal' (Memories of Love). His 'Issayamudhu' formed another collection of lyrical poems. He painted the picture of an ideal family in his 'Kudumba vilakku' (The Light of the Family). His 'Ethirnaratha Mutham' and 'Pandian Parisu' are examples of short epic poems. He also wrote some poems for children and tried his hand at prose plays before he breathed his last on 21 April 1964. Among his plays 'Pisirandayar' won him posthumously the Sahitya Academy Award in 1961. In recognition of the revolutionary zeal that was evident in some of the poems he was called 'Puratchikavi' or the revolutionary poet. His admirers call him 'Pavendhar' i.e. 'King of poems'.

Following the tradition set by Bharathi, he wrote in a simple elegant style and sought to liberate, as it were, Tamil poetry from the clutches of pedantry and infused new life and verve into it. Bharathidasan's poems inspired a new generation of young poets not only in Pondicherry but in the whole of Tamil Nadu. Among them mention may be made of Vanidhasan of Seliyamedu, a self-acknowledged disciple of Bharathidasan.

This may also be marked as a period of Tamil revivalism when a great deal of literary activity was in evidence. As early as in 1910, Subramania Bharathi edited 'Suryodayam' (L'Aurore), a Tamil journal published by Saigon Chinnayya Rathinasamy Naidu. Bangaru Pathar edited the 'Kalaimagal' since 1913. 'Karpagam', another literary journal, started appearing from 1915. The 'Thamizh Magavu' edited by V. Doraisamy Mudaliar appeared from 1918. All these journals helped in one way or other to stimulate a great deal of creative endeavour. 'Thamizhanangu' (1940) and 'Thamizh Selvi' (1960) also joined in later. Journals such as 'Thainadu', 'Desabhakthan', 'Desa Sevakan', 'Karpagam' 'Kudiarasu', 'Lokobakari', 'Industhan', 'Anuman', 'Nagara duthan' and 'Grama uzhiyan', all of which appeared at some time or other from Pondicherry carried Bharathidasan's poems.

There were others who added lustre to the intellectual life of Pondicherry during this century, and in the process have left behind indelible traces of their endeavours.

Gnanou Diagou known for his versatility and munificence was essentially a man of letters. An advocate by profession, he published the 'Principes de Droit Hindou' (1920) and 'Le Droit Civil' both of which served as authoritative reference works for those in the legal field. He translated into French the Sundarakandam of Kamban's Ramavana, Thirukural, Naladiar, Asarakkovai Nanmani Kadigai, Thirikadugam and the Aranerisaram. As one of the founder members of the Historical Society, he edited and published in eight volumes the summary of all the judgments of Pondicherry's highest court of law covering the period from 1735 to 1820 under the title 'Arrêts du Conseil Supérieur de Pondichéry. 'Le Général de Lally' was his biographical work, based on the diary of Anandarangapillai. As a politician he was for many years a member of the Conseil Général.

Paramananda Mariadassou (1870-1948) will be remembered for his studies of the traditional system of medicine in India and the large numbe for books through which he sought to open the window of traditional Tamil medicine towards the French world. His 'Moeurs Médicales de l'Inde' (1906), 'Le Jardin des simples de l'Inde' (1913), 'Médecine traditionnelle de l'Inde' (Lectures) (1934), 'Matière Médecale Ayurvedique', 'Le rajeunissement par le Kayakarpam' (1938), 'Médecine traditionnelle de l'Inde (us et coutumes de l'Inde)' (1940) reveal the range of his studies. His researches in the French School of Medicine where he was a lecturer on traditional Tamil Medicine stimulated a great deal of interest among the French medicos,

Léon Saint Jean of Karaikal (23 August 1900—December 1965) popularly known as Karavelan was at once an ardent patriot and an intellectual. Although a lawyer by profession he strove so much to spread the knowledge of Tamil among the French. He translated into French the *Tiruvalangatu Muta Tirupatikam* by Karaikalammayar, *Atisudi* by Avvayar and *Pudia Atisudi* by Bharathiar. As if in recognition he was asked to declare open the Tamil Unit of the French Institute in 1956.

Many are the French scholars who have left behind the impress of their deep study and erudition, that it will not be possible to mention all of them and present a full scale account of their contributions to the many branches of studies. What is attempted here is only a brief round-up. Astronomy drew the attention of Le Gentil and Bailly. The attention of Foucher d'Obsonville, the naturalist, came to be fixed on the birds and animals of Tamil Nadu. Archaeological studies received the attention of Jouveau Dubreuil, A Foucher, J.M. & G. Casal etc. The study of History and Indology received

the attention of so many scholars. Anthropology drew the attention of G. Olivier, Abbé Dubois and Lambozat. The names of Léon Sorg, Falgayrac J. Sanner, E. Gibelin, F.N. Laude, etc. are closely associated with legal studies. The problems of public health attracted the attention of Huillet. The flora received the attention of Achart and Bigot. Dessaint published a manual of medicine. Dr. Lucien Giboin brought out a publication on the medicinal plants. (Epitôme de Botanique et de Matière Médicale de l'Inde). Geology attracted the attention of Lemoine and Faron, Geography that of Mouzon and Jacques Dupuis. Louis Dumont conducted a full scale enquiry on the social and religious organisation of Pramalai Kallar in Madurai District. Bougle, Esquer and Julien Vinson studied the caste system.

Charles Valentino wrote about the economy of French India at the beginning of this century (Notes sur l'Inde: serpents, hygiène médicine, aperçus économiques sur l'Inde française). Emmanuel Adicéam studied the system of irrigation in Tamil Nadu. Legris and Blasco devoted their attention to climatology.

To sum up, suffice it to say that French rule was from the beginning very generous except for a few instances of excessive religious zeal. Their influence was at once liberal and deep. While they respected the manners and customs of the local people, they endeavoured to impart the benefit of their knowledge to their subjects. This was more marked in the realm of religion and education. French influence is also evident in the realms of language, dress, food, music, architecture, the arts and crafts and even in matters of certain customs and conventions. Pondicherry, in spite of all its inherent Indianness, does not resemble any other town in India. Here one can find order, clarity and symmetry qualities which are typically French. Although with merger in 1954, the political domination of France over Pondicherry ended, the cultural links forged by a three-hundred-year long history still Although culturally the vast majority of the people in remain strong. Pondicherry are bound by Indian cultural traditions, a good number of them, especially those who still maintain some kind of a link with France and the French speaking world, are open to French cultural influence.

# II. Growth of literacy

The total number of students on enrolment in 1954 was 25,363.93 Since then there has been a steady increase in the number of school-going children which should be evident from the following statement:\*

Year	r 	Boys		Girls	Total
1956–57			19,586	10.392	29,978
1957-58		• •	22,031	11,827	33,858
1958-59			26,154	14,123	40,277
1959-60			27,171	15,089	42,260
1960-61			29,732	J 6,224	45,956
1961-62			34,557	19,857	54,414
1962-63			35,835	21,999	57,834
1963-64			37,869	23,040	60,909
1964-65			40,796	24,767	65,563
1965–66			44,585	27,621	72,206
1966-67			47,089	29,166	76,255
1967-68			48,829	30,420	79,249
1968-69			51,126	32,984	84,110
1969-70			53,833	34,540	88,373
1970-71	٠.		55,640	35,841	91,481
1971-72	٠.	.,	58,132	37,534	95,666
1972-73			60,406	39,190	99,596
1973-74			62,349	40,934	1,03,283
1974-75			64,559	42,891	1,07,450

<sup>\*</sup> Compiled from the Abstract of Statistics.

Soon after transfer, 45 primary schools and additional classes were opened. The scheme 'Universal and Free Primary Education for the 6-11 age group' was introduced during the III Plan period. Moreover, in order to encourage the enrolment of students, certain incentive schemes such as the Mid-day Meal Scheme and the Free Supply of Books and Slates were implemented.94

According to the 1961 census, the overall percentage of literacy was 37.43 as against 24.02 for all India. The percentage of literacy was 50.39 in the case of males and 24.64 for females. Among the States and Union Territories in India, Pondicherry ranked third in literacy next only to Delhi and Kerala.

More than one-third (36.48 per cent) of the total literate population lived in the urban sector. The proportion of literate and educated males living in the urban sector was 31.8 per cent of the total literate and educated persons. In all 45.95 per cent of the literate and educated persons among females were concentrated in the urban sector showing the advancement of education in the urban sector compared to the rural sector:

As per the provisional figures of 1971 census, the percentage of literacy for the whole Territory and the various regions was as follows:

	 1961	1971	Percentage of variation
Union Territory	 37.43	46.02	8.59
Pondicherry	 35.23	44.90	9.67
Karaikal	 38.29	45.05	6.76
Mahe	 62.30	67.39	5.09
Yanam	 38.99	43.92	4.93

The percentage of literacy in Mahe region continued to be much above the territorial average. In terms of growth of literacy, while Mahe retained its pre-eminent position among the four regions, Yanam which held the second position in 1961 fell to the fourth position. Pondicherry went up from its last position to the third position whereas Karaikal rose from the third to the second position. In other words during the 1961-71 decade, Pondicherry region registered the highest increase in the rate of literacy which was better than the territorial increase followed by Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam in the same order.

Given below is a statement showing for the entire Territory as well as region-wise the percentage variation in the rate of literacy among males and females between 1961 and 1971:

	M	ales	Percen-	Fen	nales	Percen-
	 1961	1971	tage variation	1961	1971	tage variation
Union Territory	 50.39	57.29	6.90	24.64	34.62	9.98
Pondicherry	 47.96	56.44	8.48	22.36	32.97	10.61
Karaikal	 53.73	57.32	3.59	23.67	33.05	9.38
Mahe	 71.69	73.52	1.83	54.30	62.14	7.84
Yanam	 47.14	50.56	यमे 3.42	31.02	37.43	6.41

An analysis of the growth of literacy during the decade 1961–71 shows that the growth of literacy among females outstripped that of males as well as the rate of growth of the combined population—a clear index of the growth of women's education during the decade. This was achieved through the special attention paid for women's education. Although education was free upto II Form for both boys and girls before merger, it was declared free upto matric or S.S.L.C. for girls with effect from August 1960.95 The appointment of a Special Officer for Women's Education in 1961 and the constitution of a State Council for Women's Education in 1963 are indications of the importance attached to the promotion of women's education is the Territory.

For details on 'Educational advancements of scheduled castes', see Chapter XVII under 'Harijan Welfare'.

III. General Education

Details of different systems of general education as were in vogue at the time of merger are furnished below:

Medium	Stages	Name of classes	Duration
French	Primary	11ème, 10 ème, 9 ème, 8 ème, 7 ème	5 years
	Secondary	6 ème, 5 ème, 4 ème, 3 ème	4 years
	Higher Secondary	Seconde, Première, Philosophie or Mathématiques	3 years
English	Primary	Standards I to IV	4 years
	Middle	Forms I to III	3 years
	High	Forms IV to VI	3 years
Tamil	Primary	lère année upto 7 ème année	7 years
	High	Année préparatoire/Cours complémentaire lére année/2 ème année/3 ème année.	4 years

After merger, efforts were made to provide facilities for education up to the secondary school stage as well as post-matric stage on the pattern in vogue in the adjoining States. The system of education known as Année préparatoire and Cours complémentaires was done away with. As a result of this, the holding of the examination commonly known as 'Tamil Brevet' was also stopped. At present education is imparted up to secondary stage in the medium of the regional languages (Tamil in Pondicherry and Karaikal, Malayalam in Mahe and Telugu in Yanam).

# Pre-Primary Education:

There were no pre-primary schools anywhere in the territory before 1954.96 Soon after merger the administration came forward to sanction an equipment grant of Rs. 400 (non-recurring) and a monetary grant of Rs. 600 (recurring) for every new school opened. In the beginning a lot of private initiative was in evidence.

The growth of pre-primary schools in the Territory since merger should be evident from the following statement:

Year		Government	Private	Total
1956–57		<u>—</u>	7	7
1957-58			11	11
1958- 59			17	17
1959-60		_	17	17
1960-61		_	30	30
1961-62		1	29	30
1962-63		2	30	32
1963-64		3	32	35
1964-65	• •	4	33	37
1965-66		5 114.1	40	45
1966-67		6	40	46
1967–68		7	40	47
1968 69		9	40	49
1969-70		॥ स्थमेन	<b>14</b> 39	50
1970-71		13	34	47
1971–72		15	34	49
1972-73		18	29	47
1973–74		25	29	54
1974-75		27	29	56

The above statement reveals a marked shift in the growth trend of government and private schools. On the one hand, there is a steady decline in the number of schools under private management, and an increase in the number of schools under government control. However, there is practically no change in the total number of pre-primary schools after 1965.

## Primary Education:

As on 1 November 1954 there were 157 schools (both primary and middle) in the Territory. Although soon after merger 45 primary schools and additional classes were opened, no significant progress could be achieved till the commencement of the II Five Year Plan in 1956. During the II Plan period 112 new primary schools including seven basic schools were opened. As against 15,900 pupils on the rolls in primary classes at the time of merger, there were 31,234 pupils at the end of the II Plan period (1961).

Even before merger primary education was free in the French establishments. However the scheme 'Universal and Free Primary Education for the age group 6-11' was introduced during the III Plan so as to secure an additional enrolment of 12,000 pupils. Primary education has since been extended to all villages in the Territory within walking distance.

There were (as on 31 December 1974) 286 primary schools out of which 256 were government sponsored and 30 private with a total enrolment of 63,626 students (36,592 boys and 27,034 girls). The total number of middle schools was 82 (66 government sponsored and 16 private) with an enrolment of 19,434 (12,217 boys and 7,217 girls).

## Secondary Education:

The schooling pattern of Secondary Education has undergone several changes after merger. To begin with, the 10-year schooling was introduced during 1956-57 and it continued up to 1962-63. From 1963-64 an integrated 11-year course of secondary education from Standards I to XI was introduced in the Territory.97 While this pattern was continued in Pondicherry and Karaikal, the schools in Mahe switched over to the Kerala pattern of 10-year schooling from 1968-69 following its adoption by Kerala. Similarly the schools in Yanam switched over to the ten-year pattern in 1966-67 and the first batch of S.S.C. students appeared for the public examination in 1969.

Soon after merger the administration chalked out a programme for providing each commune with a high school. This goal was reached very soon. Except a few schools run by private agencies in urban areas, most of the high schools in rural areas are run by the government. Out of a total of 10,049 students, 7,934 (5,678 boys and 2,256 girls) were enrolled in government schools and 2,115 students (1,217 boys and 898 girls) were enrolled in private schools. The medium of instruction is generally the local language and a few schools impart education in the English medium.

The first Central School in the Territory, provisionally located in the premises of JIPMER, Dhanwantarinagar, started functioning from 1 May 1968. It functions under the control of the Central Board of Secondary Education and imparts education in the media of English and Hindi. The management of the school is left to the care of a State-Level Management Committee.

## Collegiate Education:

Collegiate education on the Indian University pattern was not available in this Territory before merger. Those institutions which carried the appellation 'College' were only institutions of higher secondary education in as much as they did not coach up students for university degrees. It was only after merger that collegiate education came to be identified with university education. A phenomenal increase was registered both in the number of colleges in the Territory and in the number of students seeking higher education. As on 31 December 1974, there were four Grade I Government Colleges and three Junior Colleges for General Education, spread over in all the four regions.

	The p	rogress	of	collegiate	education in	the	Territory	during	the	period
will	be evide	nt fron	1 the	following	g statement:					

Year		No. of students	No. of Colleges*	Year	No. of students	No. of colleges
1960–61	 	867	2	1968-69	2,172	5
1961-62	 	962	3	1969-70	2,552	5
1962-63	 	947	3	1970-71	3,291	7
1963-64	 	1,378	4	1971-72	3,937	7
1964–65	 	1,587	4	1972-73	4,107	8
1965-66	 	1,726	4	197374	4,266	9
196667	 	1,953	4	1974–75	4,384	9
1967-68	 	1,808	4		•	

<sup>\*</sup> The number includes the Medical College and Collège Français.

The system of Collegiate Education in the Territory as on 31 December 1974 is shown in the following statement:—

S. No.	Name of the final examination	The authority conducting the examination	Medium of instruction	Region in which the courses are available	Stages of education	Courses D offered	Duration of the courses
$\exists$	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(7)	(8)
. <del>.</del>	P.U.C.	University of Madras	English	Pondicherry & Karaikal	Pre-degree	P.U.C.	l year
5	Pre-degree course	Calicut University	Do.	Mahe	Do.	P.D.C.	2 years
ю.	Intermediate	Andhra University	ापेड़ा जयसे O	Yanam	Do.	Junior & Senior Intermediate	2 years
	Baccalauréat	University of Rennes, France	French	Pondicherry	Pre-degree	Seconde Première 3 years Terminales (Arts) 'C' (Maths)	re 3 years
-	B.A., B.Sc. & B.Com.	University of Madras	English	Pondicherry & Karaikal	Under graduate	B.A./B.Sc./ B.Com.	3 years
7	M.A. & M.Sc.	. Do.	Do.	Pondicherry F	Post-Graduate	M.A./M.Sc.	2 years

While colleges in Pondicherry and Karaikal follow the pattern prescribed by the Madras University, Mahatma Gandhi College in Mahe follows the pattern prescribed by the Calicut University in Kerala. The colleges in Yanam follow the pattern prescribed by the Andhra University.

The three-year course leading to the Baccalauréat examination (comparable to the pre-degree course) is offered by institutions of higher secondary education, although the examinations are conducted and the diplomas awarded by the University viz. University of Rennes, France.

# Tagore Arts College (Laspettai), Pondicherry;

This college was opened on 3 July 1961, the Birth Centenary year of Rabindranath Tagore, following the visit of a seven-member Madras University Commission on 26 April 1961. Pending construction of a permanent building, it was decided to locate the college provisionally in the premises of Collége Calvé. A site was acquired in Laspettai for the construction of buildings. The college moved to its permanent building in 1966.

With the introduction of the Post-Graduate course (in French) in 1965 it became the first institution of Post-Graduate Education in the Territory. The college offers degree courses in Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Economics, Commerce, French, English and Tamil besides Pre-University courses in different branches of science and humanities. The post-graduate courses are offered in Mathematics and Economics besides French. It has a library of more than 20,000 books. To the college is attached a men's hostel capable of accommodating about 60 students.

# Bharathidasan Government College for Women, Pondicherry:

This has the distinction of being the first women's college in the Territory. A four-member University Team which visited Pondicherry recommended its affiliation to the University in 1968. Apart from Pre-degree courses, the college offers degree courses in Tamil, English, Home Science and Mathematics. The sanctioned strength of the college in 1974 was 464. The hostel attached to the college provides accommodation for about 25 students. The library had a modest collection of about 6,500 books.

Arignar Anna Government Arts College, Karaikal:

This was started in the year 1967 as a Junior College for offering Pre-degree courses for students in the region. It functioned in the premises of College Moderne to begin with. It was upgraded into a degree college in 1968 with the introduction of degree courses in Economics, Mathematics and Chemistry. In December 1969 the college was rechristened as Arignar Anna Government Arts College. In 1970 a site was acquired in the vicinity of Karaikal town for the building complex of the college.

The college which had a sanctioned strength for 580 students was provided with a hostel capable of accommodating about 35 students. The college library was well equipped with more than 16,000 volumes.

Avvayyar Government College for Women, Karaikal:

This college started functioning in 1972 (formally inaugurated on 17 August 1972). To begin with, only Pre-University courses were conducted. Subsequently, degree courses in English and History were started from the year 1974–75. The college which had a strength of 84 students as against the sanctioned strength of 146 during 1974–75 was provisionally housed in the T.T.C. building at Talatteruvu in Karaikal.

Mahatma Gandhi Government Arts College, Mahe;

The lack of facilities for collegiate education in Mahe region impeded the spread of higher education there. Admission to colleges in the neighbouring State of Kerala was also relatively more difficult for students of this region. Further, because of the 10-year pattern of high school education students in the region could not join colleges in Pondicherry and Karaikal which admitted students after the 11-year schooling as per the Madras University pattern. It was against this background that a proposal for starting a college was mooted in the year 1961. The following year the college was opened with facilities for coaching up students for P.U.C. Subsequently in 1973, degree courses in Economics and Chemistry were introduced. As a temporary measure the college was accommodated in the premises of Jawaharlal Nehru High School. As on 31 August 1974 the college had 397 students as against the sanctioned strength of 424.

#### Government Junior College, Yanam:

With the conversion of the higher secondary school in Yanam into a high school of ten-year schooling to conform to the pattern in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh it became necessary to provide facilities for higher education in Yanam

region. Hence in 1970 a Junior College with a two-year] Intermediate course was opened. It started functioning in the premises of the Government High School, Yanam. This Junior College is affiliated to the Board of Secondary Education, Andhra Pradesh.

## Government Degree College, Yanam:

According to the pattern in vogue in Andhra Pradesh, colleges offering degree courses alone fall within the ambit of the University. In view of this, and in order to fall in line with the pattern in vogue in Andhra Pradesh, a separate degree college affiliated to the Andhra University was started in the year 1973. This college was also located in the premises of the Junior College. The college offers courses in Economics.

## Lycée Français:

Le Lycée Français de Pondichéry is the progeny of Collége Royal which was started as early as in 1826. The history of this institution has already been dealt with elsewhere. It will suffice to add here that at present classes are conducted from Kindergarten level upto Baccalauréat. English is taught here as second language and Tamil as an optional language. This college is affiliated to the University of Rennes in France. The students who pass out of this institution take up advanced studies in different subjects in French Universities.

#### Evening Colleges:

The introduction of evening colleges in the Territory may be described as part of the effort to provide facilities for out of work study for self-improvement for inservice personnel. The first evening college meant, to coach up students for a two-year Pre-University course went into operation during 1970-71. Subsequently a four-year degree course in Economics was introduced.

In 1970 an Evening College was started in Karaikal where coaching was offered for a two-year Pre-University course. The Principals of the respective colleges and the Heads of the Departments of the subjects concerned are placed in charge of the evening colleges.

# IV. Professional and Technical Education

It was Desbassyns de Richemont who cleared the way for the introduction of professional education in the French establishments through his ordinance of 10 August 1826. The law course was introduced as early as in 1838. A course in medicine was introduced in 1863. Attempts made since 1872 to set up a technical school did not succeed until 1907. Although facilities were available even prior to merger for professional training in the territory, they were in no way adequate or diversified enough to satisfy the requirements of all-round development. The Ecole de Médecine was upgraded into a Medical College after merger and raised to the status of an institution of post-graduate medical education and research. A school of nursing was started in 1960. Although the Ecole de Droit ceased to function in 1958, a Law College was started in 1972. A polytechnic was started in the year 1961. The School of Arts and Crafts which continued to function till 1966 was replaced by the Junior Technical School. The Industrial Training Institute, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and the Pre-Vocational Schools are all post-merger institutions. Commercial Institutes which train candidates in shorthand and type-writing and teach book-keeping and accountancy are almost entirely run by private agencies.

The growth of professional and technical institutions in the Territory between 1956 and 1974 will be evident from the following statement:

Institutions			1956-57	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69	1973-74
		41	यम्ब न्य				
Law College			1				1
Medical College			1	1	1	. 1	1
School of Nursing				1	1	1	1
Teachers' Training Centre	s		1	1	1	2	ı
Polytechnic for boys			_	1	1	1	í
School of Arts and Cra	afts		1	1	1	_	
Junior Technical School			_			1	1
School for embroidery, r	needle	work					
and dress-making for gir	ls		1	1	1	1	1
Industrial Training Institut	te		_		_	1	1
Pre-Vocational Centres				_		4	4
Krishi Vigyan Kendra						-	1

Government Law College, Pondicherry:

Although the Law College in Pondicherry is of very recent origin, the beginning of law education in the Territory may be traced to 1838 when by the arrêté of 5 June, the Procureur Général was authorised to start a course on laws. The course which was conducted by the judicial officers was free and open to all. Successful candidates were awarded a certificate of proficiency known as 'Brevet de Capacité'.

It appears that the course, discontinued after some years, was revived in 1867 with some modifications. But it was the arrêté of 24 February 1876, which actually brought into being the Ecole de Droit (School of Law). This arrêté invested the course with some distinction by increasing its duration to 3 years as in France with an examination at the end of each year. The Roman Law and Administrative Law were also added to the curriculum. Steps were also taken simultaneously to seek the recognition of Universities in France for the course. The décret of 1 July 1880 modified by the décret of 17 May 1881 entitled students who completed the course in Pondicherry to obtain the degree of 'Licence en Droit' from any one of the Faculties of Law in France subject to certain conditions. Economics was included as one of the subjects of study. The Hindu Law continued to be taught as a special subject.

The recognition process was completed by the décret of 14 May 1920 which made it possible for a student to migrate even while mid-way through the course. A student having completed the first year of study in the School of Law was allowed to continue his second year in any Faculty of Law in France without sitting for any qualifying examination. Those who completed two years of study were allowed to take the degree of Baccalauréat en Droit after a special examination consisting of oral tests. The course was next reorganised in 1918.98 Since then the course ceased to be free and the Professors came to be paid some honorarium. Muhammedan Law was introduced as an additional subject in the curriculam. Students in the outlying settlements as well as natives of French India residing in Indo-China were allowed to get registered in the School of Law and to sit for the examination. Baccalauréat was prescribed as the minimum qualification required to get registered for Licence en Droit. For the benefit of those who did not possess the Baccalauréat another course known as Capacité en Droit was introduced. The passing of this course made one eligible for selection as 'notaire', 'huissier' and 'commis greffier'.

Later the arrêté of 4 October 1923 allowed lawyers, especially those with five years experience, to teach in the school. All the different enactments relating to the school of law were consolidated by the arrêté of 21 July 1935. This with some minor modifications continued to be in force till de facto merger. Although soon after merger it was decided to close down the school, students half way through were allowed to complete their studies.

After the extension of the Indian laws to this Territory in 1963, attempts were made to start a Law College providing instruction on the Indian pattern lending to the B.L. degree. As the minimum qualification for the study of law was a degree of an Indian University, it was found necessary to strengthen the base of the degree colleges in the Territory to start with. The Law College was inaugurated on 17 August 1972 on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of India's Independence. The college which had a sanctioned intake of 220 was affiliated to the University of Madras. It offers the III Year B.G.L. course.

# Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research:

This Institute is again the progeny of Ecole de Médecine which was started as early as in 1863. The small number of French surgeons here were found inadequate to cope up with the problem of health in all the establishments. Hence the administration decided to train the natives as compounders to assist the surgeons especially during epidemics. This, it was thought, would also put an end to the prevalent quackery. It must be noted that even prior to the establishment of this school, natives were trained as Aides-Médecins (otherwise called Maistries) so as to help in rendering medical relief to the people. Some of them were trained as vaccinators or assistant vaccinators to be engaged in cholera control work. Official recognition was granted to the school at the instance and initiative of one Dr. Beaujean, under the arrate of 13 April 1863. Since then several reforms were carried out in the school with a view to attracting intelligent young men to the profession. The medical officers, after three years of service in the hospital, had to sit for an examination. Successful candidates were awarded diplomas which authorised them to practise medicine in all the French establishments in India.99

In 1890, the duration of the course was increased from three years to five and the qualification for admission was prescribed as **Brevet de Capacit**é or **Diplome de Grammaire**. The same year some posts of Externes and Internes were created.100 Since then several changes designed to improve the standard

of medical education and also to attract the educated youth were introduced but 'the small number of students taken for the course, the inadequacy of the teaching equipment and the rather rudimentary nature of the hospital' seems to have hampered its progress. 101 The arrêté of 12 September 1898 provided for the training of sage-femmes (midwives) besides officiers de santé and vaccinateurs. 102 In an attempt to attract more students, the minimum qualification reduced to Brevet Élémentaire or Certificat de l'enseignement secondaire (1903). In 1926, a dissection hall was established in the local hospital to improve the teaching of anatomy and surgery. The next year medical 'education was declared free while Externes and Internes were made eligible for salary. Four chairs, each headed by a Professor, were established. 103 A research laboratory was also set up.

The duration of the course was again reduced from five years to four in 1931. Even books were supplied free of cost to the students. 104 A separate cadre of Médecin Local was created so as to take in all those who passed out of the school. In spite of all these incentives, number of admissions was still very small. In 1934 and 1935 the school had only one student. In 1934, the school turned out two Officiers de Santé and in 1935 two Médecins Locaux. This was so because the candidates of Médecins Locaux were neither assured of a bright future nor professional advancement. The fact that members of Médecin Local were not allowed to practise medicine in France and that all those who passed out of the school could not be absorbed into the cadre had a dampening effect. Those few who ventured to have private practice had to face competition from quacks and practitioners of indigenous medicine.

The situation was sought to be remedied on the one hand by reducing the duration of the course here and enabling the students to complete their studies (for obtaining the degree of **Docteur en Médecine**) in France. But negotiations with the authorities in France in this regard did not succeed. 106 In the meanwhile the **Conseil Général** expressed its serious concern about the fate of **Ecole de Médecine** and wanted the government to take immediate action to improve the standard of medical education in the school by increasing the duration of the course from four years to five. As a consequence the duration of the course was once again increased from four to five years in 1937 and on completion of studies here, those who succeeded in obtaining scholarships for higher studies in France had to start afresh the first year course to get the French State Diploma of **Docteur en Médecine**. 107 The state of affairs of this school remained more or less the same even at the time of merger.

It was this **Ecole de Médecine** which was taken over and converted into a regular Medical College in November 1956 by the Government of India. It functioned temporarily from the premises of the old Tribunal building. (now the Legislative Assembly) and the old D.C. power house building. In 1958, an area measuring 65.6 Ha. of land was acquired in 'Gorimedu' about five kms. away from Pondicherry for the construction of the college and hospital buildings.

The college was recognised by the Medical Council of India in 1961 when the first batch of students passed out of the institution. The new college complex at Gorimedu, renamed as Dhanwantarinagar was inaugurated by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India, on 13 July 1964. The same year the college was raised to the status of an Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research.

The hospital wing which started operating from 3 April 1966 was formally declared open on 24 April 1966. An additional area of 10 Ha. adjacent to the present campus was acquired later to provide for future expansion.

The Institute, affiliated to the University of Madras, offers instructions for the under-graduate M.B.B.S. course, Post-graduate degree or Master of Science in the Faculty of Medicine for non-medical science graduates in the subjects of Anatomy, Physiology, Bio-Chemistry, Pharmacology and Microbiology, Degree of Master of Surgery for medical graduates in the subjects of Anatomy, Surgery and E.N.T., Degree of Doctor of Medicine for medical graduates in the basic medical science subjects of Pathology, Microbiology, Physiology Pharmacology and Bio-Chemistry and in the clinical subjects of Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Anaesthesiology and Dermatology. Diploma courses are available in Paediatrics (D.C.H.), Obstetrics and Gynaecology (D.G.O.), Pathology (D.C.P.), Opthalmology (D.O.), Anaesthesiology (D.A.), E.N.T. (D.L.O.), Ortho-Surgery (D. Otho.) and Radiology (DMRD). Candidates also register for Ph.D. degree in many specialities under the guidance of senior professors. The number of admissions to the under-graduate course is limited annually to 65.

The Institute's expansion programme included the opening of several more departments viz. the Department of Neurology, Neuro-Surgery, Urology, Uro-Surgery, Paediatric Surgery and Endocrinology and Metabolism besides introducing post-graduate degree courses in such specialities as Thoracic Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery on the clinical side and on Community Medicine on the Institute side.

Research formed an integral part of the Institute's activities. The different departments of the Institute and hospital have undertaken several research schemes supported by I.C.M.R. Grants, P.L. 480 Funds and other agencies. Under a collaboration programme with the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada and JIPMER, experts from Canada in the field of Radiotherapy, Anaesthesiology, Pharmacology and Neurology visited JIPMER for periods ranging from three months to six. As part of the collaboration programme, the Canadian Crossroads International sponsored six medical students from the University of Western Ontario for training in JIPMER for a period of eight weeks each.

The buildings in the campus comprise the main four-storeyed institute building with its ancillaries, workshop and animal house, a four-storeyed hospital building, out-patient department, kitchen and store blocks, infectious diseases block, laundry block, a separate library building, three hostels for 556 men students and one hostel for 144 women students, a hostel for 130 nurses, a hostel to accommodate 50 house surgeons and 305 staff quarters of different types.

The main institute building is designed on the scale of a modern medical institution with four well furnished air-conditioned lecture galleries with audio-visual aides, a spacious anatomy dissection hall, separate post-mortem block, a set of eight laboratories with ancilliary rooms, four museum halls for different departments and Seminar rooms in each of the floors in addition to adequate accommodation for the different faculties.

The general lay-out with attractive lawns and avenues adorned by busts and statues of illustrious scientists adds a touch of charm and orderliness to the atmosphere in the campus. Replicas of important paintings from the pages of history of medicine are inspiringly displayed throughout the hospital and the institute. The campus is provided with all essential amenities for its residents with its own water supply and sanitary arrrangements (See also Chapter XVI).

#### Teachers Training Centres:

The earliest Teachers' Training Centre known as Centre Pédagogique was started in Pondicherry by the arrêté of 9 April 1884 which was closed down when the demand for trained teachers was met. Arrangements were subsequently made for the training of teachers only when there was demand for

teachers. After merger the first Teachers' Training Centre for training secondary grade teachers was started in Pondicherry in October 1955 when a short-term course was introduced to train teachers before posting them in schools. In order to meet the increased demand for trained teachers, consequent on the opening of as many as 300 additional classes during the III Plan, another Training Centre with an annual intake of 40 trainees was opened (1960) in Karaikal. The capacity of the T.T.C. in Pondicherry was doubled from 40 to 80. The Karaikal Teachers' Training Centre was closed down the next year only to reopen again in 1969. The Karaikal Centre then functioned for three years and was closed down once again thereafter. Since then the Teachers' Training Centre in Pondicherry alone is in operation. As on 8 July 1974, out of a total of 1,670 secondary grade teachers working in government schools in the Territory only nine were not duly qualified.108

As there is no Teachers' Training College anywhere in the Territory, graduate teachers who pass out of the training colleges in Madras, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are recruited to fill up posts of teachers in the Territory. Untrained graduate assistants already employed in government schools are deputed to attend the Summer School-cum-Correspondence Courses for B.Ed. Degree conducted by the Regional College of Education, Mysore. It may be added that out of a total of 246 School Assistants (Grade I) as on 6 July 1974 only five were unqualified. The number of qualified and unqualified (Grade I) School Assistants was 49 and one respectively, 109

School of Nursing, Pondicherry; again again

Although prior to 1954 there was no separate institution in the Territory for the training of nurses, midwives and nursing orderlies, the Ecole Médecine trained candidates as vaccinateurs and aide-médecins, sages-femmes and infir-Soon after merger, the administration met with some miers-vaccinateurs. difficulty in securing the services of trained nurses to man its dispensaries and hospitals. In order to overcome this difficulty, it was decided to start a nursing school in Pondicherry. Although the Nurses' Training School was sanctioned in 1959 the courses could not be commenced immediately for want of qualified staff. However, subsequently with the assistance extended by the Tamil Nadu Government, the course with an intake of 20 students was started on 25 July 1960 within the premises of the General Hospital. The institution was affiliated to the Nursing Council, Madras. The building for the nurses' hostel sanctioned in 1960, was ready for occupation in 1971. During this period the student nurses were accommodated in rented buildings located in different parts of the town.

# Vocational Agricultural School, Mathur:

Since 1964 young farmers in the Territory used to be given training on improved agricultural practices in the Experimental Research Farm at Pondicherry and in the State Seed Farms at Pondicherry and Karaikal.110 A Vocational Agricultural School was however started at Mathur village in Karaikal region on 1 July 1967. A farm is attached to this school. A one-year course of practical training in agricultural and allied subjects is provided for about 20 students every year. Each student is paid a stipend of Rs. 50 besides pocket money.

## Krishi Vigyan Kendra-cum-Research Centre, Pondicherry:

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra-cum-Research Centre, which began operating on 25 March 1974 was formally inaugurated on 9 September 1974. Conceived as an Institution of training and research, the 80 Ha. Research Centre-cum-Farm proposed to be developed in Villiyanur Commune will form the base for its research and training activities. The management of this Kendra which is a constituent unit of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, vests in the Managing Committee headed by the Vice-Chancellor of that University. The Principal of the Kendra functions as its member-secretary.

In July 1974, the Kendra launched the first of its training programmes on water management for the Extension Officers and a Refresher Course of Intensive Rice Cultivation for the Agricultural Assistants and Village Level Workers. Besides this, a Pilot Research Testing-cum-Field Laboratory on Water Conveyance Systems and Canal Lining was also launched.

During the Fifth Plan period the Kendra proposed to carry out more than 45 farm-oriented, rural-based and production-oriented Research Projects in the Territory. The estimated outlay of Rs. 96 lakhs for the Kendra under the Fifth Plan is to be shared by the Pondicherry Administration, the ICAR and the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

## Junior Technical School, Pondicherry:

Here it may be appropriate to trace briefly the history of technical education in the Territory. It was Desbassyns de Richemont who gave a start to technical education by providing an elementary and practical course for surveyors required by the Service des Ponts et Chaussées. 111 Training in industrial

arts and crafts like weaving and spinning was provided in the Atelier de charité which was organised to train the children of indigent Europeans and Topas. 112 In 1872 an attempt was made to establish a technical school under the administrative control of Service des Ponts et Chaussées. This proposal did not however materialise. In 1879 another effort was made to open a small technical school as an annexe to the P.W.D. Workshop. This too did not take shape for want of accommodation. In 1897, a technical wing was opened in Collège Calvé.113 The Société Progressiste, a voluntary organisation in Pondicherry, is reported to have provided some funds to Collège Calvé for starting the Technical Wing. The Unit functioned for sometime under the care of an old student of Ecole des Arts et Métiers in France. In 1897, the Société is said to have provided a further grant of Rs. 150 for its maintenance and subsequently a grant of Rs. 200 for the purchase of a drilling machine-The arrêté of 17 May 1899 constituted a committee to tender advice on all matters relating to the installations in the school, introduction of new technical courses and measures to streamline technical education keeping in view the requirements of local industries. Another arrêté of the same date also provided for the award of Certificat d'aptitude professionnelle to those passing out of the institution. But a regular school known as 'Ecole des Arts et Métiers de Pondichéry' was actually founded only by the arrêté of 15 January 1907 which simultaneously abolished the industrial wing attached to Collège Calvé.114 The school was placed under the administrative control of Service des Travaux Publics. The institution provided training in such fields as blacksmithy, carpentry, wood carving, goldsmithy, fitting, turning, etc. Some more changes were brought about by the arreté of 31 May 1918 and that of 28 September 1922 which continued to govern the administration of the school even at the time of merger.

In 1966 this school was upgraded into a Junior Technical School and affiliated to the Board of Technical Education and Training, Tamil Nadu. Facilities are now available for courses in turning, machine shop, electric wiring, welding, automobile and radio mechanism, fitting, moulding, pattern making and sheet metal works. The school has a sanctioned intake of 70 students per annum. Students are eligible for a stipend at the rate of Rs. 20 per month during the first two years of study and Rs. 30 during the third year of study.

Motilal Nehru Polytechnic, Pondicherry:

The first Polytechnic School in this Territory was started in the year 1961. Housed temporarily in the premises of the Ecole des Arts et Métiers in rue Bussy, it moved into its own building at Laspettai in 1966. To begin with, the polytechnic had a sanctioned strength of sixty seats and offered a diploma course in Civil Engineering. Courses in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering were introduced the very next year with an additional intake of 40 seats for each course, taking the total to 140 seats. The intake was however reduced to 120 in 1968. In 1970 a three-year diploma course in commercial practice with an intake of 30 seats was introduced. The next year i.e. in 1971 a three-year diploma course in Electronics was introduced with an intake of 15 students within the sanctioned intake of 120. The intake was subsequently increased to 140 in 1973 i.e. 90 seats for engineering courses and 50 for commerce. A hostel with facilities for 90 students was attached to the Polytechnic.

# Pre-Vocational Training Centres:

The Pre-Vocational Training Centres came to be established in the Territory under a centrally sponsored scheme started with UNICEF assistance during the III Five Year Plan. To begin with, in 1964, two Pre-Vocational Centres were started, one in Pondicherry and another in Ariyankuppam. The next year i.e. in 1965, two more Pre-Vocational Training Centres were opened in Muttirapalaiyam and Villiyanur. Training in basic fitting and turning, smithy, carpentry, sheet metal work, moulding and gas-welding is imparted to those undergoing the course which is of three years duration. Trainees who are in the 6-11 age group are not only paid a stipend of Rs. 10 p.m. but are also supplied with books free of cost. The Pre-Vocational Centres placed under the care of Career Masters, are attached to the High Schools at Villiyanur, Ariyankuppam, Muttirapalaiyam and Tirunallar.

# Industrial Training Institute, Tirumalarajanpattinam:

The Industrial Training Institute was started in Karaikal in August 1968 under the Craftsmen Training Scheme. Candidates in the 18-25 age group are selected for training as fitter, turner, machinist, wireman, welder and building constructor. In all 25 per cent of the seats are reserved for candidates hailing from scheduled castes/tribes and 5 per cent for repatriates from Burma and Sri Lanka, migrants from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and five seats for ex-servicemen.

Apart from the fact that no fee is charged for training in the institute, one-third of the candidates are offered stipend at the rate of Rs. 25 per mensem. Members of the scheduled castes/tribes and repatriates are eligible for stipend at the rate of Rs. 45 per mensem. In addition to these incentives, the trainees are provided free hostel accommodation, free medical care and free workshop clothing during the entire period of their training. The Institute which started functioning in the workshop sheds within the campus of the Rural Industrial Estate, Kottuchcheri, moved to its own premises later.

Schools for embroidery, needle work and dress-making:

In the matter of technical education, Karaikal and Pondicherry regions fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Technical Education, Tamil Nadu. Pondicherry town alone is recognised as an examination centre and the examination is supervised by the Deputy Inspector of Schools.

St. Antony's Girls' Technical School: Started in 1947, this institution was recognised the next year by the Board of Technical Education, Madras. The institution coaches up students in embroidery, needle work and dress-making and presents them for the technical examination conducted by the Board of Technical Education. Tamil Nadu. The first batch of students appeared for the examination in 1952. The course is of two years duration, one year for the Lower Grade and another for the Higher Grade. According to the existing regulations, students with a minimum qualification of VIII standard alone are eligible for the course. This requirement is however waived in the case of S.S.L.C. holders who may appear straight for the Higher Grade examination after proper coaching. Apart from coaching up students for the above courses, the institution also provides training in wire-bag knitting, beads knitting and doll-making. These courses however do not qualify for recognition.

Sacred Heart of Jesus' Middle School, South Boulevard, Pondicherry: This institution also gives training in embroidery, needle work and dress-making. On account of its proximity to the muslim quarters, a good number of the students in this institution are from the muslim community.

#### Commercial Institutes:

Several institutions have sprung up in the Territory to coach up candidates in technical fields such as shorthand and typewriting in English, Tamil and French and present them for the Government Technical Examinations conducted

by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Some of the institutions also provide facilities for the study of such subjects as Book-keeping, Accountancy, Commercial practices and translation.

The following are the Commercial Institutes functioning in the Territory:

- 1. St. Mary's Commercial Institute, Pondicherry.
- 2. The Typewriting Bureau, Pondicherry (1916)
- 3. The Commercial Institute, Pondicherry.
- 4. Saraswathi Technical Institute, Karaikal (8 November 1972).
- 5. The School of Commerce, Karaikal (17 January 1962).
- 6. Progressive Commercial Institute, Karaikal (1 May 1970)
- 7. Sree Balan's Institute of Commerce, Mahe (15 March 1962)
- 8. Sreejeth Technical Institute, Pandakkal (2 January 1975)
- 9. Sri Venkateswara Type Institute, Yanam (1960)
- 10. Sri Ramalingeswara Type Institute, Yanam (1968)

The institutes in Pondicherry and Karaikal function with the approval of the Board of Technical Education, Tamil Nadu. The institutes in Mahe and Yanam are under the control of the Board of Technical Education of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh respectively. The Progressive Commercial Institute used to coach up students for the Drawing Examination conducted by the Government Arts School, Kumbakonam. While Pondicherry is recognised as an Examination Centre for holding the examination, students in Karaikal go to Nagappattinam. The candidates from Mahe and Yanam go to Tellicherry and Ramachandrapuram respectively.

## V. Schools for Fine Arts

Pondicherry Fine Arts Academy:

The Pondicherry Fine Arts Academy was started through the initiative of some private individuals some time in September 1970 as a registered body. To begin with, the Academy confined itself to arranging cultural programmes for the benefit of its members. The Academy opened a music school on 17 October 1972 where vocal and instrumental music was taught. Facilities exist for teaching veena, violin and mridangam and gadam. The Academy received some financial assistance from the Sangeetha Nataka Sangham for running the music school. According to the memorandum of association, the administration of the Academy is carried on by a bodyof elected office-bearers.

#### Sasikalamandram:

Sasikalamandram is the oldest extant institution in the Territory devoted to the promotion of Bharathanatya. Started on 13 December 1956, the affairs of the Mandram are looked after by a Committee. Students who have performed the 'arangetram' are trained to appear for the lower/higher examination conducted by the Government of grade Tamil Nadu. Although the government helps the Mandram with some grant from time to time, it subsists mainly on the fees collected from the students. In the midst of its other activities, the Mandram has also arranged several benefit performances in aid of worthy public causes.

### Karaikal Music Academy:

This Academy was started in Karaikal on 9 August 1974 for the promotion of performing arts in the region. The Academy arranged musical concerts, dance programmes and dramas for the benefit of its members. One of its other objectives was to run a music and dance school.

# VI. Oriental Schools and Colleges

Institutions falling under this description did not come up in this Territory for various reasons. First, because of the small size of the establishments, there was not much scope for such institutions to flourish here. The administration was biased in favour of French education. Moreover, western type of education was available here since 1703. Those few who preferred oriental education sought the guidance of prominent men of letters in the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu. For instance, Savarayalu Nayagar sought the help of Meenakshisundaram Pillai. Such well known Tamil scholars as Bangaru Pathar and Periasami Pulavar are known to have obtained their diksha from Gnanier Adigal of Thirupathiripuliyur.115

As late as in 1957 there was a proposal to open a Tamil College in Pondicherry. As an initial step, night classes for coaching up candidates for Vidwan examination were conducted since September 1957.116 The college however did not take shape.

#### Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha:

Sometime after merger arrangements were made for conducting night classes for teaching Hindi in the Territory. Hindi teaching centres were started in Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam and Villiyanur. In 1958 the Dakshina

Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha (Tamil Nadu) established a branch in Pondicherry. The Sabha is a recipient of teaching grant from the Pondicherry Administration. The Sabha also gets from the Central Government 75 per cent of the total expenditure for approved schemes like conducting teachers seminars and for the award of prizes for students. There is a branch of the Sabha in Karaikal also.

# VII. Education for the handicapped

Government School for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, Pillaichavadi, Pondicherry:

The School for the Blind was opened on 17 July 1963 and the School for the Deaf and Dumb was started on 22 June 1964. Both the institutions are located within the same campus at Pillaichavadi. A site measuring 1.73 Ha. was donated for building the school by Hamsa Valliammal, the heiress of Anandarangapillai. The institution which is provided with facilities for 50 blind students and 50 deaf and dumb has a complex of four buildings, two for running the schools and two for the residential accommodation of the inmates. Children between the ages 6 and 12 from all over Tamil Nadu are admitted in the institution. The blind children are taught up to VIII standard after which they are sent to the Government Blind School, Poonamallee, Madras for further studies. The deaf and dumb students are educated up to V Standard, Orphans are not admitted. The inmates are sent home during vacations. The inmates are taught music and craft. The health of the inmates is taken care of by the Medical Officer at the Primary Health Centre at Kalapet.

Details of the inmates of the institutions are furnished below:

Year	_	Blind se	ection D	Deaf & Du	imb section	Total	No. of students Poonam higher	sent to
		Boys	Girls Boys Gi		Girls		Boys Girl	
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1963–64	, .	6	3			9		
1964-65		10	3	9	8	30	_	
1965–66		15	6	8	8	37	_	
1966-67		14	5	8	7	34	_	_

(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1967–68	•••	14	5	7	6	32		
1968-69		13	5	8	3	29		
1969-70		15	4	5	3	27		
1970–71		11	5	9	2	27	4	1
1971–72		8	1	17	2	28	7	2
1972-73		5	2	20	8	35	1	1
1973–74		6	1	16	9	32	1	i
1974–75		8	2	18	7	35		

# VIII. Adult Literacy / Social Education

The Adult Literacy Programme was launched in the Territory only in 1956 as part of the Community Development Programme. Two years hence the Directorate of Harijan and Social Welfare entered the field to be followed by the Directorate of Public Instruction in 1961. Between 1956 and 1971 i.e. within a period of 15 years, 14,800 adults were made literate. The number of adult literacy centres run by the various departments varied from year to year. 117.

## IX. Audio-visual education

Although the Audio-Visual Education Unit was set up in 1960 to form part of the Teachers' Training Centre, Pondicherry, it started functioning independently only in 1965, when it came to be placed under the control of an Audio-Visual Education Officer. A film library was organised in the Unit and placed under the care of an Assistant Librarian. As on 31 December 1974, the film library had 343 films, 351 film-strips besides slides, long playing records, etc. all of educational value. In 1970 a mobile unit was added to this unit for conducting regular film shows in urban as well as rural areas. The unit also imparts training to teachers on the preparation of visual aids as well as in handling equipments like film-strip projector, epidiascape, etc. Similar units are to be set up in Karaikal and Mahe under the Fifth Plan.

Since 1965 this administration is a member of the Children's Film Society paying an annual subscription of Rs. 5,000. As a member, the administration is eligible for a print each of all the films produced by the Society. The subscription is paid by the Directorate of Information, Publicity and Tourism and the films received are stocked in the film library attached to that Directorate.

## X. Sports and games

The establishment of Cercle Sportif in Pondicherry in 1907 is the earliest proof available of popular interest in modern sports and games in the Territory. This institution had been in the forefront of many constructive efforts seeking to promote sports, games, tournaments and competitions in Pondicherry. Since 1929. the Cercle organised several All India Tournaments. Tournaments in such different games as tennis, foot-ball, volley-ball, badminton, 'petanque' and tabletennis, besides such indoor games as chess, carroms and baby-foot were arranged from time to time. Interestingly even cricket seems to have been played here in those days. Poet Subramania Bharathi is reported to have spoken on the 'evils of caste distinctions' at the Pondicherry Progressive Union Cricket Club in 1912. Since then many institutions, clubs, and associations have sprung up to encourage various games in the Territory. One may mention here the Modern Club, the Pondicherry Sports Group, the Friends Ball Badminton Association, the Karaikal Sports Clubs, La Lumière, Union Sportive,-Eclaire, Cercle Jean d'Arc. Hindu Union and Triumph. Foot-ball players like Bala (alias Ranjan). Maxime de la Victoire, Sivarajalingam, Pascal and Kali and badminton players Veerasamy Chettiar and Santhanam Ignace and Chess player Ravichandran through their success have brought a name for Pondicherry.

The growth of these games in turn led to the creation of separate associations for foot-ball, tennis, cricket, volley-ball, badminton and chess with regular office-bearers. Some of these associations which are affiliated to All India bodies organise tournaments and competitions from time to time.

The Pondicherry Foot-ball Association was extended financial assistance for holding the Presidency Foot-ball Tournament. Teams representing the Territory are also deputed to compete in tournaments held elsewhere in the country.

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Pondicherry	Karaikal	Mahe	Yanam	
Ball Badminton	Ball Badminton	Ball Badminton	Ball Badminton	
Foot-ball	Foot-ball	Foot-ball	Indigenous Kabadi	
Volley-ball	Volley-ball			

Games such as swimming, lawn tennis, hockey, basket-ball suffer for want of facilities.

One game that is peculiar to Pondicherry is the 'Pétanque' usually played by grown-ups and the middle aged. The game is played with iron balls weighing from 0.600 kg. to 0.800 kg. which are even now obtained from Marseilles, the International Headquarters of this game.

The All India Council of Sports and the Nehru Yuvak Kendra are the central agencies coordinating, aiding and assisting the growth of sports and games in the Territory. The Pondicherry State Sports Council was formed in 1968 with a view to encouraging the growth of sports and games in the Territory. The Sports Council also considers requests for financial assistance from recognised associations.

#### Physical Education:

The Inspectorate of Physical Education was created only on 2 January 1958 to take care of physical education in all primary, middle and secondary schools both under public and private managements. On 1 October 1965, the set-up was expanded and came to be called as the Chief Inspectorate of Physical Education to deal with all problems of physical education in the Territory. All aspects of physical education in colleges is attended to by the University Sports Branch as well as the Inter-Collegiate Athletic Associations of the respective universities although the Inter-Collegiate Youth Festival is held under the auspices of the Chief Inspectorate. The holding of the Civil Services tournaments is also the concern of the Chief Inspectorate. The Chief Inspector of Physical Education is the Ex-Officio Liaison Officer for purposes of the National Physical Efficiency Drive.

The distribution of permanent and floating categories of equipments is one of the main responsibilities of the Chief Inspectorate. The proper utilisation of these equipments is watched by the District Educational Officers and the Deputy Inspectors of Schools. Lack of playground facilities in schools stand in the way of providing proper physical education to students in schools. Only some of the newly opened schools are provided with adequate playground facilities. Foot-ball, volley-ball and ball-badminton are popular among school boys. Games such as cricket, lawn tennis and hockey suffer for want of facilities.

Although no regular coaching programmes are arranged either for athletics or field games, the services of coaches deputed by the National Institute of Sports are availed of. The services of such coaches are even requisitioned when necessary. Since the inception of the Chief Inspectorate two coaching camps were held, one for foot-ball and another for volley-ball in both of which 51 players participated.

## XI. Cultural, Literary and Scientific Societies

Institut Français:

The establishment of the French Institute in Pondicherry was the outcome of the initiative of Dr. K.M. Panikkar, the historian and Dr. Jean Filliozat, the indologist. It took concrete shape with the agreement of 12 August 1954 which provided for the opening of an Institute in Pondicherry for continuing the researches of Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient. The Institute was inaugurated on 21 March 1955.\*

The scope of research activities of the institute was widened in 1956 with the addition of a Scientific Section devoted to the study of the natural conditions of life of the people of India. This section came to be established as a result of meetings held in 1955 between Prof. Homi Bhabha, the then Director of the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research and Prof. Dupuy Director-General of Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris.

<sup>\*</sup> Article 24 of the Treaty of Cession reads: The French Institute of Pondicherry set up by an understanding reached between the two Governments since the 21 October 1954 agreement and inaugurated on the 21 March 1955, shall be maintained as a research and advanced educational establishment. The Indian Government shall provide such suitable facilities to further the development and activities of the said Institute, as agreed upon between the two Governments from time to time.

Indology Section: Research work here is mainly centred on different branches of Indology, such as the philosophy and religious traditions and practices in India, with special reference to the Saiva Agamic religion, one of the most developed in India, as well as in South-East Asia. The institute is also engaged in the collection, edition and interpretation of agamic and puranic texts. Studies undertaken by the Institute also cover such branches as Indian Iconography, Archaeology with special reference to treaties on architecture and image-making, besides traditional grammar and poetry of Sanskrit and Tamil and Tamil Lexicography.

The Indological section is equipped with two Research Libraries, one located in the French Institute with 40,000 volumes and another in the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient with 7,000 volumes. In order to facilitate the preparation of new dictionaries based on semantical studies by distinguishing the true meanings from apparent meanings of words the institute has compiled under the direction of N. Kandasami Pillai a full index of 3,20,000 words occurring in Tamil Sangam Literature. A tokaiyak arati is under compilation under the direction of Pandit Nilakanta Sarma. Besides the Director, four scholars of Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (two French and two Indian) work with a team of Indian pandits. Several scholars of Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes. Paris, collaborate in the work of the Institute. The Directorate-General of Cultural, Scientific and Technical Relations sponsors another scholar to work in the Institute.

Scientific Section: The research undertaken in the Scientific section covers such wide-ranging subjects as Botany, Pollen an alysis, Soil studies, Bioclimatology and Microclimatology, Ecology and Cartography. The research work is carried on with the help of four laboratories each dealing separately with the problems of (1) Botany and Bioclimatology, (2) Pollen analysis, (3) Pedology and (4) Cartography. The Scientific Section is well equipped with a Natural Science Research Library of 7000 volumes. The section also maintains a herbarium with more than 3,000 species, a collection of pollen grains of 18,000 tropical species with slides, descriptive index cards and sorting cards, a collection of minerals and soil samples, a collection of meteorological data pertaining to 7,000 primary and secondary stations.

The Cartography wing is engaged in the preparation of vegetation maps based on the internationally accepted principles as first propounded by Dr. Gaussen. These maps seek to synthesise the results obtained from these different laboratories. The bioclimatic and phyto-geographic maps prepared

by this Institute (International map of vegetation) cover the countries of the Indian Ocean and the adjacent tropical regions. Besides its Director, four French and two Indian scholars are attached to the Scientific Section together with a team of Indian collaborators.

#### Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient:

At the turn of the XIX century, it was increasingly realised that the Collège de France located as it was in Paris could not devote adequate attention to research work on East-Asia. Hence an archaeological mission was set up in Indo-China on 14 December 1898 under the patronage of the 'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres' to investigate the fields till then left unexplored or inadequately explored. Two years later this set-up came to be known as Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient under the décret of 26 February 1901 with its field of research covering not only Indo-China but the whole of Far-East including India.

Among the many scholars who have done research on subjects having a bearing on India, mention may be made of the following:

सन्यापन जयन

A. Foucher .. L'Art greco-bouddhique du Gandhara

Dr. Thérèse Brasse .. Etudes instrumentales des Techniques du Yoga.

Victor Henry .. Précis de grammaire Palie

Victor Henry .. Eléments de sanscrit classique

L. Renou .. La Grammaire de Panini

L. Renou et J. Filliozat.. L'Inde classique

Jean Déloche ... La Circulation en Inde avant la Révolution des

Transports

Jean Déloche .. Voyage en Inde du Comte de Modave

E. Adicéam ... La Geographie de l'Irrigation dans le Tamil Nadu

Dr. Georges Olivier ... Anthropologie des Tamouls du Sud de l'Inde

R. Billard .. Astronomie indienne

A branch of Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient was established at Pondicherry in 1964. The Institution which was under the direction of such eminent men as Louis Finot, Alfred Foucher and Claude Maitre, has been under the control of Dr. Jean Filliozat since 1954. He is assisted by the scientific members of Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Ministry of National Education, Paris, and experts of the Directorate-General of the Cultural, Scientific and Technical Relations of the French Ministry of External Affairs, Paris.

The Pondicherry Branch of Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient is attached to the Indological section both of which maintain permanent relations on an exchange basis not only with similar Indian Institutions, Research Centres and Universities but also with more than 150 Scientific institutions in as many as 83 countries throughout the world. The French publications help spread the knowledge of Indian culture in the French knowing world.

## Alliance Française:

Alliance Française is an institution devoted to the spread of French anguage and culture. The Pondicherry Branch of Alliance Française appears to have been registered in 1894.118 It is however of some interest to note that when Capitaine E. Martinet came to Pondicherry in 1888 to carry out the printing of his dictionary, he was requested by the authorities of Alliance Française in France to be its delegate in Pondicherry. By the time he left Pondicherry in August 1890, there were as many as 370 members with two branches in Karaikal and Mahe. In Pondicherry, courses for adults were arranged. Coachings were also available for girls. The first prize-distribution function was held in the presence of the Governor. As students, the institution then counted about hundred adults, forty-five girls from St. Joseph de Cluny and one hundred and fifty girls from the school created by Mme. Martinet. 119

The institution now arranges regular refresher as well as short term courses for the benefit of children and adults. Students even from far away places come to Pondicherry to study the language, as here alone they have the facility to get familiar with the spoken language.

## Historical Society of Pondicherry:

Founded on 1 May 1911 by Alfred Martineau, it was originally known as La Société de l'Histoire de l'Inde Française. To begin with, the Société published in 1912 a compendium entitled 'Lettres et conventions des Gouverneurs

de Pondichéry avec les divers princes indiens de 1666 à 1793' in order to draw the attention of scholars to the old records which remained concealed in the Archives at Pondicherry.

The society was also instrumental in bringing out a number of other publications of historical interest. The society had on its roll a galaxy of eminent historians and indologists. Among them mention may be made of Jouveau Dubreuil, Edmond Gaudart, Henri Theron, Singaravelou, Gnanou Diagou, Blesse, J. Barbier, R.P.H. Hosten S.J., Charu Chandra Roy, Ch. Gravelle, J. Vinson, H.de Closets, R.P.H. Castets.

The society which became inactive after 1920 appears to have resumed its activities only in 1932 after a lapse of 12 years. 120 In 1936, the society published Volume VI of 'Revue Historique' to commemmorate its Silver Jubilee. The society then fell into a state of dormancy. The society was once again in the limelight after 1944. The administration encouraged the society with financial assistance. Mme. Y.R. Gaebelé, the author of 'Créole et Grande Dame, Johanna Begum, Marquise Dupleix' and Mme. Labernadie, author of 'La Révolution et les Etablissements Français' were honoured by the French Government.

Amidst its other activities, the society organised an exhibition on 'Arts Indous' in 1950 within the premises of the Library. Again in 1952, the terracota findings of Tirubhuvanai located by P.Z. Pattabiraman, one of its members, were exhibited in the Library Hall. Soon after merger the institution came to be known as 'Société de l'Histoire de l'Etat de Pondichéry'. Although the société published Volume IX of the Revue in 1956, not much of research activity was in evidence since then. It received a set-back in 1963 when Madame Gaebelé who was not only the Chief of the Public Library and the Archives but also the President of the Society, went on retirement. In 1972, some of the erstwhile members revived the society. New rules and a Memorandum of Association were framed and the society was registered under the Societies Registration Act on 24 February 1972. The publication of the 'Revue' was soon resumed. In 1973, the society sponsored the publication of a 'Bibliography of the French 'Kalvettukalil Puthuvaiin India' a book of reference for research scholars. paguthigal' is another publication sponsored by the society exploring the antiquity of Pondicherry and its surrounding country-side based on the study of South Indian inscriptions. The society not only maintains a library but also evinces interest in collecting old books, periodicals and records having a bearing on Pondicherry's history.

### Kalaimaghal Kazhagam, Pondicherry:

The Kalaimaghal Kazhagam which functioned in Pondicherry since 1911 was closely connected with cultural and literary activities. Sometime after its inception, the Kazhagam started a journal entitled 'Kalaimaghal' to work for the revival of Tamil language. Besides articles on religious themes, the journal also published short stories and serialised novels. One of the novels entitled 'Ramani' serialised in the journal sought to condemn the practice of child marriage as well as marriages between persons of incompatible age.

### Tamil Talir Kazhagam:

This Kazhagam was started in the year 1918. Spread of education among the underprivileged was the motto of this institution. The Kazhagam has got its own premises in West Boulevard.

### Alliance éducative des Vannias, Pondicherry:

This was founded in the year 1919 by members of the Vannia community. Besides conducting a primary school, the Alliance granted scholarships to deserving students belonging to the Vannia community for pursuing higher studies. The Association has its own building at Diagu Mudaliar Street, Pondicherry.

### Kalvikhazhagam, Pondicherry:

Although the origin of Kalvikazhagam can be traced back to 1912 it came to be officially established only in the year 1926 by some ardent lovers of Tamil language. Besides maintaining a library, a reading room and a night school, the Kazhagam also held examinations and awarded prizes to those studying in the Kazhagam. Courses in Tamil literature and free Tamil classes were also conducted by the Kazhagam. In an attempt to improve the financial position of the Kazhagam, famous French dramas were translated into Tamil and performances were held in Pondicherry and Thirupathiripuliyur. With the income derived, the Kazhagam was able to raise its own building in V.O.C Street, Pondicherry.

### Puthuvai Thamizh Sangam:

The Puthuvai Thamizh Sangam has had only a spasmodic existence. In the thirties of this century, the Puthuvai Thamizh Sangam published a literary journal entitled 'Thamizh Magavu' which however did not have a long lease of life. In 1966, the Puthuvai Thamizh Sangam became a registered body.

### Karai Kalvi Kazhagam:

Authorised by the arrêté of 9 February 1945, the Kazhagam was formed to organise Indo-French cultural exchanges and to promote the spread of Tamil and French languages, besides arranging talks from time to time. The Kazhagam maintained a library. The Kazhagam also conducted night classes for coaching up students for Brevet Elémentaire and Brevet d'études supérieures de langue indienne.

#### Société Progressiste;

Société Progressiste de l'Inde Française was founded on 25 December 1880 by a group of local people for the propagation of French language and culture among Hindus. This institution was recognised by the arrêté of 1 March 1883. As part of its educational activities, the Société started an Ecole primaire superieure known as Ecole Hindou, which later came to be known as Ecole de la Société Progressiste. At the turn of the last century the Société vigorously campaigned for the removal of the missionaries from Collège Colonial. Although this school had to be closed down after some years it was reopened in 1921 with the financial assistance extended by Nannaya Bagavathar, a rich merchant of Pondicherry. It showed great interest in starting a wing for technical training in Collège Calvé.

The Société also offered scholarships (Bourses) to Indian children coming from rural areas for their education. Students from all the four regions were eligible for such scholarships. The Société received some grant from the Pondicherry Administration. The interest received from the investment of its capital of more than Rs. 30,000 and the rent from a building owned by the Société are its other sources of income.

#### Siddha Vaidya Sangani :

The Siddha Vaidya Sangam of Pondicherry was established in 1950 in accordance with the French law and was subsequently registered under the Societies Registration Act following its extension to this Territory. It was

started with a view to popularising and encouraging the Siddha and Ayurvedic systems of medicine and treatment in the Territory. It is affiliated to the Central Siddha Medical Council of Madras.

### Pondicherry State Sangeetha Nataka Sangam

The Pondicherry State Sangeetha Nataka Sangam was constituted as a registered body in the year 1967 under the ex-officio Presidentship of the Lieutenant-Governor of Pondicherry for the encouragement of music, dance, drama and films in the Territory.

According to its constitution, the Sangam was started in order to promote research in the field of music, dance, drama and films and to establish for this purpose a library and a museum in the Territory. Its other functions included the establishment of 'theatre centres', provision of facilities for training in dramatic art, production of plays, publication of useful literature, extension of assistance to organisations and artists serving the cause of fine arts, conduct of play festivals and the award of prizes and distinctions. The Constitution further provided for a sub-committee to deal with all matters connected with music and dance and another to deal with drama and films in the Territory.

The affairs of the Sangam were managed by a ten-member Executive Board and a General Council. Until 1970, the Director of Public Instruction and the Finance Secretary were respectively the ex-officio Secretary and Treasurer of the Sangam. Following the transfer of the subject to the Home Department in June 1970 the constitution was amended to facilitate the Public Relations Officer (now Director of Information, Publicity and Tourism) to take over as the Secretary of the Society. The Under Secretary (Finance) became the Treasurer of the Sangam.

The lump-sum grant of Rs. 50,000 given in 1967 formed the corpus of the Sangam. According to the constitution, all those contributing Rs. 5,000 were deemed as life-members. The contribution for ordinary membership was fixed at Rs. 60 per annum (Details of total number of life-members and ordinary members are not available). The Sangam also received some income from hire charges.

# XII. Libraries, Museums, Botanical Gardens, etc.

#### Libraries:

The proposal to open a public library in Pondicherry came up only after the final restoration of the establishments to the French in 1816 and it took about 10 years for the idea to take concrete shape. The library was opened on 16 May 1827 during the period of Governor Eugène Desbassyns de Richemont. The Bibliothèque was originally located in the premises of Magasin Général. The books in the various administrative establishments formed the nucleus of this library which was enriched in course of time with further additions through proper financial allocations in the budget.

Although known as Bibliothèque Publique it was open only to Europeans in the beginning. The natives and 'gens de couleur' were allowed only on special authorisation. This restriction however was removed in 1837, following the avowed realisation that the library was an essential means for the natives to acquire a perfect knowledge of the French language.122

The functioning of the library was subsequently regulated by the arrêté of 15 September 1846. The arrêté of 26 May 1879 constituted a committee to put forward proposals to the government for the improvement of the library. The same committee was also called upon to keep a close watch on the utilisation of funds allotted for the purchase of books and to ensure the maintenance of the catalogue upto-date, etc. In 1890, another public library was opened in Karaikal. A Library Supervisory Committee was formed for the efficient management and improvement of the library by the arrêté of 8 February 1917, amplified by the arrêté of 30 March 1917. The orders of 1917 stipulated that very old editions, pictorial books, catalogues of pictures and plans and dictionaries should not be given on loan. Journals and magazines were not to be loaned until they were bound. Apart from these two public libraries in the Territory, there were a few run by private agencies, like the Ramakrishna Vasaga Salai, the Vedapureeswarar Vasaga Salai, etc. which catered to the requirements of particular groups in the Territory 123.

At the time of merger, there were only three public libraries run by the government and five libraries run by private agencies in the Territory as detailed below:

			Libraries		
		(	Sovernment	Private	
Pondicherry	 	 ••	1	3	
Karaikal	 	 	1	1	
Mahe	 	 	1	1	
Yanam	 	 			

Between 1955 and 1961, the library movement in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions received some encouragement under the Community Development Programme. The Local Bodies also seem to have evinced some interest in the library movement in Karaikal. The number of libraries under the Community Development Programme increased from five in 1955 to eight in 1959 and declined to three in 1961. During the same period the number of reading-rooms increased from one in 1955 to 13 in 1959 and declined to two in 1961.124

Details of libraries in the Territory according to the 1961 census are furnished below:

Darian		No	of libra	aries und	ler	No. of reading-rooms unde			
Region	_	overn- ment	C.D. scheme		Others	Govern- ment	C.D. scheme	Local bodies	Others
Pondicherry	·	1	3		4		2		_
Karaikal		1	12*	3	2			_	_
Mahe		1			1		_		_
Yanam		_	_	_	_	_			

<sup>\*</sup> Including reading-room also.

Some improvement in the number of libraries seems to have taken place during the III Plan period, especially after 1964.

During the French period the two public libraries functioned in accordance with the provisions of the relevant arrêté and their day-to-day working was regulated by règlements framed for the purpose. These orders and regulations have not been replaced by any new library legislation, code or rules. A Library Advisory Board was constituted in 1969 for the purpose of selection of books and periodicals for all the libraries in the Territory. According to the government notification the Board was expected to 'give guidelines to the libraries in the matter of maintenance, issue of books etc'.125

Romain Rolland Library, Pondicherry: It was seen that the public library in Pondicherry was started on 16 May 1827 with a small stock of books collected from the various government establishments. According to the stock verification carried out in 1839, there were then 5,013 books in the library. While drawing up the first list of books in 1845, it was found that the library had about 6,500 books. The collection was supplemented through purchase of books from budget allotment as well as from donations from the public and the British Indian Government from time to time. The arrêtè of 23 September 1852 constituted the Archives as an adjunct of the library and the Conservateur de la Bibliothèque came to be redesignated as Conservateur des Archives et de la Bibliothèque. In due course the library came to possess a significant stock of rare books. In 1935, the library had about 25,000 volumes. A catalogue of books in the library was published in 1941. Again in 1961, another catalogue was brought out by Madame Gaebelé.

In order to commemorate the birth centenary (1966) of the great French Savant Romain Rolland, who was a contemporary and personal friend of Mahatma Gandhi, the library was renamed after him on 27 August 1967. 126 A children's section was started in 1971. The home delivery service was introduced in 1972. The reclassification of books according to the 'colon classification', the 'open access system' were some of the important improvements introduced in the library after merger.

The site together with the building at No. 3 Rangapillai Street was acquired by the government and a two-storeyed building was constructed for housing both the library and the Directorate of Information and Publicity. The library was shifted to its new building at No. 3 Rangapillai Street in 1974. The very same year the timing of the library was changed by a government order according to which the library was to be kept open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on all days except Mondays.

Public Library, Karaikal: The establishment of a library in Karaikal was decided upon by a resolution of the Assemblée Générale on 23 December 1889. The arrêté of 17 February 1892 authorised the opening of the library. The same arrêté also constituted a commission to advise the administration on measures to be taken for the development of the library. Subsequently, under the arrêté of 4 March 1918, the library came to be administered by a Comité de Surveillance which functioned under the control of the Administrator of Karaikal and the Mayor of the town. The librarian was appointed by the Administrator and his salary was met from the local budget.

Originally known as **Bibliothèque coloniale**, it was renamed as **Bibliothèque Publique** in 1952 by the **arrété** of 11 June 1952. As on 30 August 1974, the library had a modest collection of 5,824 books in all the three languages viz. Tamil (2,646), English (785) and French (2,393). The library was placed under the care of an **Ecrivain de la Bibliothèque**.

Public Library, Mahe: In Mahe, the library was actually started by the 'Association of old students' in 1918. On 15 August 1955, the library was donated to the Government by the Association with 630 books. In course of time more books were added. This library had a radio and a film projector.

Branch libraries: Branch libraries came to be set up in the rural areas of the Territory only after 1964. Placed under the overall control of the Directorate of Education, the branch libraries were the immediate concern of the Deputy Librarian who functioned under the supervision of the Special Officer for French Education. Details of all branch libraries in the Territory as on 31 December 1974 are furnished below:

Si. Place No.		N	Name of library	Date or year of inception	Building facility		
(1)	(1) (2)		(3)	(4)	(5)		
	cherry Region: riyankuppam		Branch library	44-1964	Rented bu	ilding	
2. N	ettappakkam		Do.		Municipal	building	
3. V	illiyanur		Do.	1964	Rented bu	ilding	
4. M	Iuttiyalupettai		Do.	1965	Do.		
5. Ba	ahur		Do.	1967	Do.		

(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)
6.	Mudaliyarpettai		Branch library	1967	Rented building
7.	Reddiyarpalaiyam		Do.	1968	Do.
8.	Tirubhuvanai		Do.	1968	Do.
9.	Sedarappattu		Do.	1969	Model Village Govt. building
10.	Kalmantapam		Do.	1970	Housed in a school
11.	Kusappalaiyam		Do.	1970	Rented building
12.	Pondicherry	• •	Bharathidasan Memorial Library	21-4-71	Govt. building
13.	Muttirapalaiyam		Branch library	1972	Rented building
14.	Seliyamedu		Do.	1972	Do.
15.	Laspettai		Do.	1972	Do.
16.	Pondicherry	••	Bharathiar Memoria Library	16-12-72	Govt. building
17.	Tirukkanur		Branch Library	1972	Rented building
18.	Kalapet	• •	Do.	1972-73	Model Village Govt. building
19.	Uruvaiyar	••	Do.	1972–73	Model Village Govt. building
20.	Erippakkam	••	Do.	1972–73	Model Village Govt. building
21.	Tirukkanji	••	Do.	197374	Model Village Govt. building
22.	Pakkamudiyanpet	••	Do.	1973–74	Model Village Govt. building
23.	Settippattu	••	Do.	12-6-74	Model Village Govt. building

(1) (2)		(3)	(4)	(5)
Karaikal Region				
24. T.R. Pattinam	В	ranch Library		Rented building
25. Tirunallar		Do.	1968	Do.
26. Kottuchcheri		Do.	1969	Do.
27. Nedungadu		Do.	1969	Do.
28. Niravi		Do.	1969	Do.
29. Vilidiyur		Do.	1970	Do.
30. Puvam		Do.	1973 74	Do.
Mahe Region				
31. Pallur	E	Branch Library	1964	Rented building
32. Pandakkal	F	Rural Library		Housed in the Middle School
Yanam Region				
33. Yanam	E	Branch Library	1969	Rented building

In all, there were 33 branch libraries which included also the libraries attached to the Bharathi Memorial Museum and the Bharathidasan Memorial Museum. Twenty-one of the libraries were housed in rented buildings. Although the libraries in Karaikal and Mahe are known as Public Libraries they are treated for all practical purposes as branch libraries. The library in Pandakkal is known as Rural Library and is housed in a middle school building.

Radio Rural Forum Libraries: A proposal to set up small libraries in the Radio Rural Forums, where the village agriculturists met to listen to the farm programmes broadcast by the All India Radio was included in the IV Plan to serve more as a store house of information for the benefit of farmers. It was further decided to set up such libraries only in villages where the Community Recreation Centres operated in pucca buildings. Small cupboards with lock and key were supplied to these Forums, together with selected

sets of books on agriculture, animal husbandry, public health, rural crafts, etc. The Convenors of the Radio Rural Forums were placed in charge of the libraries. The Radio Supervisor and Electrician who toured the villages to inspect the Community Listening Sets, carried out the supervision and inspection of these libraries as well. The libraries were supplied with books apart from other free government publications by the Directorate of Information and Publicity from time to time. As on 31 December 1974 there were 35 libraries located in the following villages:

### **Pondicherry Region**

1.	Sedarappattu	19.	Kalapet
2.	Madagadippattu	20.	Kuruvinattam
3.	Pillayarkuppam (Bahur)	21.	Odiyambattu
4.	Pandacholanallur	22.	Kanuvapet
5.	Mangalam	23.	Karaimedu Andipalaiyam
6.	Manaveli-Villiyanur	24.	Bahurpet
7.	Karuvadikkuppam	25.	Kil Agaram
8.	Sanyasikuppam	26.	Anandapuram
9.	Nattamedu (Embalam)	27.	Chinna Virampattinam
10.	Nellur Kuchchipalaiyam	28.	Sorappattu
11.	Manaveli-Kodattur	29.	Muttirapalaiyam
12.	Aranganur	30.	Vambupattu
13.	Manakuppam	31.	Kommapakkam
14.	Vadanur	32.	Karkilambakkam
15.	Sembipalayam	33.	Sandai Pudukkuppam
16.	Tondamanattam	34.	Vinayagampet
17.	Shanmukapuram	35.	Kanakachettikulam

18. Olandai Kirapalaiyam

### Karaikal Region

1. Talatteruvu	9.	Sembiankal
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- 2. Niravi 10. Puvam
  - . Vilidiyur 11. Palayam
- 4. Varichchikudi 12. Tirumalarajanpattinam
- 5. Kottuchcheri 13. Melaiyur
- 6. Tirunallar 14. Tiruvettakudi
- 7. Salaitheru 15. Nedungadu
- 8. Nallattur

Library of Vedapuriswarar Temple: The library of Sri Vedapureeswarar Sri Varadaraja Perumal temple which is open to the general public, is run with the help of private donations and contributions. The affairs of the library are managed by a committee of eleven members constituted for the purpose. Located in a spacious building, the library is frequented by both Shaivites and Vaishnavites.

Other libraries: It may be mentioned here that there are two libraries in the French Institute, one attached to the Indology Section and the other attached to the Scientific Section. The Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient in rue Dumas is also well provided with a library. The Alliance Française is yet another cultural institution in Pondicherry which provides library facilities to its members.

### The Archives, Pondicherry.

Attention was paid for the preservation of records from the early days of the French India Company. In 1761 when Pondicherry fell, all the official records were removed to Tarangambadi. Before taking them away a list of the documents seems to have been prepared. 127 All records except those relating to the dispute between Count Lally and the Conseil Supérieur seem to have been brought back to Pondicherry in 1773. When Pondicherry fell a second time in 1778, the records were left under the care of one Blin de Grincourt. For about twenty-five years since then i.e. until his death, the

records were under his personal custody and then under the care of his two sons. In 1816 all records except those relating to the revolution, were handed over to the **Inspecteur de la Colonie**. In 1852, those pertaining to the revolution were entrusted by the **Juge de Paix** who then performed the functions of the Mayor, to the archives. Between 1816 and 1841 some records are reported to have been caten away by white ants due to neglect. In 1844, M.Edouard Ariel, a student of Eugène Burnouf, the famous indologist, came to Pondicherry and was instrumental in getting an order issued by Governor de Verniac to organise the archives as an adjunct of the **Bibliothèque** and for preparing a catalogue of all records.

It may be recalled here that the Royal Edict of June 1776 constituted a depot in France for the preservation of all public documents of the colonies. Steps were also taken to ensure the deposit in the Public Library of all publications brought out in the Territory. This was known as 'dépôt légal'. As many as three copies of every ordinary book and five copies of lithography and engravings had to be deposited in the library. 128 In 1885 instructions were issued to the Governor making it obligatory to despatch two copies of all publications so deposited to the national collection in France. 129 In 1908, some restrictions were placed in the matter of furnishing copies of public documents.

After the death of Ariel, Vinson became the Bibliothècaire. After Vinson's departure, the archives was left in a state of neglect. In 1910, Governor Alfred Martineau, himself a historian, realising the importance of the records took steps for their proper preservation. In an attempt to make them available for research, he founded the Historical Society of Pondicherry in 1911. Edmond Gaudart, a retired Governor who succeeded Martineau as the President of the

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Society, brought out an eight-volume catalogue of the documents pertaining to the period from 1669 to 1855, the last of which appeared in 1936.

Sometime before merger, some of the records in the archives packed in 19 cases were despatched to France in three consignments.130 After 1963, the archives remained almost closed. However in 1973, a fresh attempt was made to prepare a new catalogue of the records in the archives.

#### Museums:

The Historical and Archaeological Museum, Pondicherry: Although following the excavations carried out at Arikamedu by Jouveau Dubreuil and Brother Faucheux between 1936 and 1940, some of their most interesting findings like sherds of pottery, baked clay, intaglio, etc. came to be preserved in the library. The Historical and Archaeological Museum as such came to be formed only by virtue of the Governor's decision of 16 December 1942.131 This museum was placed under the care of the Conservateur de la Bibliothèque. The order provided for the acceptance of donations and exchange of articles. Pending the constitution of a Commission de Surveillance de Musée, all matters regarding the inclusion of new items or their transfer were left to be decided in consultation with Brother Faucheux. To this collection were added some of the findings of R.F.M. Wheeler, the then Director General of Archaeology in India who carried out further excavations in Arikamedu between April and June 1945. Some of the findings of Suttukanni were also handed over to the administration on 31 March 1958. Since then, however, the Museum had not undergone any change except that in 1972 a Museum Assistant was appointed to take care of it. A 13-member Advisory Committee was constituted in February 1976.

The Geological Museum, Tattanchavadi: In pursuance of the decision of the Government of India, a Geological Museum was set up in Tattanchavadi on 28 February 1972.132 A representative collection of geological specimens numbering over 500 which included 250 minerals, 200 rocks, 10 fossils and 50 industrial products were kept on display here.

Aquarium-cum-Museum: The Directorate of Fisheries maintained for some years a Fresh Water Aquarium-cum-Museum within the campus of the Botanical Garden, Pondicherry. In 1972, the aquarium was transferred to the control of the Directorate of Education. It now forms an adjunct of Jawahar Bal Bhavan. It will be of interest to note that there are three regional Aquarium-cum-Museums attached to the Offices of the Inspectors of Fisheries at Karaikal. Mahe and Yanam

#### **Botanical Gardens:**

Botanical Garden, Pondicherry: According to the old maps of Pondicherry drawn in 1705 and later, there were several gardens in and around the town. However it is difficult to say when exactly the present botanical garden was developed. But it was definitely there in 1825 when the Ministère de la Marine

authorised the administration to promote the cultivation of sugar-cane and indigo by utilising its surplus revenue. According to the decision of 26 June 1827, Jardin du Roi was placed under the care of one Belanger, Botaniste Directeur du Jardin du Roi. 133 Subsequently it came to be known as Jardin Colonial (colonial garden).

In 1835, Perrottet\* took charge of the garden. Within a short period of four and a half years, a number of new varieties of plants like tobacco, cotton, sugar-cane and mulberry were introduced in the garden. According to the Annuaire of 1842, the garden was provided with pathways and an elliptical pond. While a plant-house was built in the south-west, a circular pond was erected at the centre. Perrottet obtained on exchange basis a number of new varieties of plants from the botanical gardens in Calcutta, Madras, Ceylon, Ile de la Reunion, etc. He himself went to places like Shevroy Hills and brought new species of plants. In 1850, Perrottet introduced the cultivation of Vanilla plants for the first time in the garden. Three years later he tried to develop a silk worm nursery. According to the catalogue prepared by Perrottet in 1867, there were about 500 varieties of plants in the garden. 134

In 1861, it appears there were two gardens, one Jardin colonial (founded in 1827) covering an area of 18 Ha \*\* and another known as Jardin d'acclimatation (developed in 1861) covering an area of 331 Ha.135. As the soil of the former was not found fit for cultivation, it was relegated as Jardin d'expérimentation. The Jardin d'acclimatation was developed as a fruit and vegetable garden. An artesian well was put into operation in 1879. Somehow or other, the area of Jardin d'acclimatation had come down to 8 Ha. 18 ares by 1884.136 In 1885, was added a station agronomique (Agronomic station) which started publishing a bilingual (Tamil & French) bulletin entitled 'Bulletin de la Station Agronomique' carrying meteorological data and articles on agricultural topics for the benefit of agriculturists in the Territory. 137 In 1904, two more artesian wells were put into operation.138

According to Madame Gaebelé, a portion of 'Parc Colonial' is reported to have been sold to Savana mill in 1924 on the express condition that a 'Cité Ouvrière' (workers colony) should be built within a period of ten years. 139 Apart from this no other information is available to explain as to how the garden got reduced to its present size of 12 Ha. 40 ares.

<sup>\*</sup> Although a Swiss by birth, he became French through naturalisation.

<sup>\*\*</sup> It is mentioned as 17 Ha. in the Annuaire 1884, p. 110.

Soon after merger some sheds were erected within the campus to locate the Directorates of Agriculture, Industries, Fisheries and the Office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. New species of plants (60) and crotons were also introduced in the garden. 140 All species of trees and shrubs numbering more than 250 were indentified and labelled. There were more than 200 species of herbaceous plants.

In 1965, Dr. Sen, Deputy Director, Botanical Survey of India, submitted a report suggesting measures to improve the garden. His scheme envisaged the setting up of a nursery with an attached glass-house, a laboratory, a conservatory, a students garden, a herbarium and a library, the construction of boundary walls and roads, a rockery, a fountain, the development of landscapes, hedges, shrubberies etc. Besides suggesting amenities for the public his proposals took into account the requirements of water and the provision of facilities for aquatic cultivation.141

The Jawahar Bal Bhavan is also located within its campus.

Botanical Garden, Yanam: This garden which is attached to the Catholic church in Yanam has been in existence since the twenties of this century. It took shape in the course of twenty-five years through the efforts of Father Gangloff. The garden is said to have been so designed as to combine the features of British, French and Moghul gardening.

The marble slab commemorating the death of Madeleine Barbe le Bon de Beausang and the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes are the two landmarks in the garden. In 1950, there were in all 169 species of local as well as exotic plants and trees belonging to 47 families, 142

#### Nehru Yuvak Kendra, Pondicherry:

This Kendra (temporarily housed in a leased building at 27, Muthumarianman koil Street) was started in January 1973. Placed under the care of a Youth Coordinator, the Kendra functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare. Designed as it was to organise out-of school education for youth in the age group of 15–25, the Kendra provided facilities for creative activities through youth participation in performing arts, folk dance, folk music, sports, games, competitions and community services.

The programme of the Kendra covered non-formal education, social services, sports and games, vocational training and cultural activities. The Kendra is also the recipient of books from the Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation. The State-cum-District Organising Committee of the Nehru Yuvak Kendra functions as an advisory body and finalises its programmes.

Regular classes are conducted in French, General English and Hindi. Candidates are sponsored for vocational training under the Self-employment Scheme both in private as well as public industrial establishments. Under the Functional Literacy Programme, the Kendra sponsors youngsters from rural areas for training in the Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

#### Jawahar Bal Bhavan:

Located within the campus of the Botanical Garden\*, the Bal Bhavan was declared open on 24 March 1972. There are different sections for dance, drama, music, creative arts, physical education besides a library and a science club. The Bhavan is under the direction of a Unit Supervisor. The introduction of Children's train on 3 December 1974 was an added attraction. The train named after Poet Subramania Bharathi consisted of one engine and two trailors and the station was named after Jagjivanram. The track runs to a distance of 0.75 km.

# XIII National Cadet Corps

It appears that the first N.C.C. Unit in the Territory was raised during the year 1961 when 45 students from Collège Calvé were enrolled. 143 However, the Pondicherry N.C.C. Group Headquarters came into existence in this Territory on 24 July 1964. The same year Senior Division Army Wing N.C.C. Units were raised in three institutions viz. Tagore Arts College, Motilal Nehru Polytechnic and JIPMER and the Junior Division Army Wing troops in High Schools at Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. Enrolment which was compulsory at the beginning was made voluntary from the academic year 1968-69. The N.C.C. Group Headquarters, Pondicherry, under the command of a Lieutenant-Colonel, functions under the overall control of the N.C.C. Directorate (Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry).

<sup>\*</sup> The building which formerly housed the aquarium accommodates the Bal Bhavan as well as the aquarium.

In all, five Pondicherry Units and two Tamil Nadu Units located in Annamalainagar were under the administrative control of the Pondicherry N.C.C. Group Headquarters as on January 1975. Besides, there were 26 Junior Division Troops functioning in 24 schools. The Medical Company N.C.C. affiliated to the JIPMER was disbanded with effect from 30 November 1972 for want of cadet strength.

The details of N.C.C. Units and their affiliation are given hereunder:

D	esignation of N.C.C. Units	Affiliated to		Strength			
1	(Pondicherry)Indep. Coy. Pondicherry	Tagore Arts College		unior Di	Army Wing vision Army		
1	(Pondicherry) Naval Unit, Pondicherry	Tagore Arts College	📐 Wings with	Four Senior Division N Wings with four Junior Div Naval Wings (Boys).			
1	(Pondicherry) Signal Coy. Pondicherry	Motilal Nehru Polytechnic	Coy. with	One Senior Division Techn Coy. with one Junior Divis Army Wing (Girls).			
2	(Pondicherry) Indep. Coy. Karaikal	Arignar Anna Govt. Arts College, Karaikal	with eight Wings (B	One Senior Division Arwith eight Junior Divisi Wings (Boys) includi in Yanam.			
3	(Pondicherry) Indep. Coy. Mahe	Mahatma Gandhi Govt. Arts College, Mahe	with two	One Senior Division Army Wing with two Junior Division Army Wings (Boys) Troops.			
_ D	The allotted and activisions during the training				and Junior		
	•			Allotted	Actual		
	(a) Senior Division A	rmy Wing		370	353		
	(b) Senior Division N	laval Wing		200	159		
	(c) Junior Division A	army Wing		1,800	1,537		
	(d) Girls Division Ju	nior Wing		100	100		
		Total		2,470	2,149		

The entire expenditure towards N.C.C. in respect of all institutions in the Territory, except JIPMER, was met from the budget of the Union Territory.

Para-training was first introduced in N.C.C. during 1972. A floating shield for the Boys Senior Division Shooting Competition was donated by the Lieutenant-Governor on 24 November 1974. The N.C.C. candidates are given preference in the selection for various posts especially in the Police and Jail Services. N. C. C. cadets are also included under PRIORITY (iii) for being sponsored for jobs by the Employment Exchange. The N.C.C. Employment Information and Guidance Bureau/Cell meant to provide employment information and guidance to N.C.C. cadets and Ex-N.C.C. cadets started functioning at Tagore Arts College on 7 August 1974. The N.C.C. Annual Day is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of November every year.

# XIV. Scouts and Guides Movement

The Scouts and Guides movement was first launched in the Territory only in 1967. Between 1968 and 1972, 89 scout masters, 16 guide captains, 12 flock leaders and 34 cub masters were trained. A few guide captains and scout masters were sent for advanced training courses. According to a report, only 65 scout masters, 20 cub masters, 12 guide captains and 5 flock leaders were actively engaged in the movement till December 1974 covering in all 1,400 scouts, 250 cubs, 200 guides and 40 bulbuls in the Territory. The entire expenditure towards the scheme is borne by the administration.

# XV. Administrative organisation and related aspects

## Organisational set-up:

The Director of Public Instruction (D.P.I.) as Head of the Directorate continued to be responsible for the execution of government policies and programmes of public education in the Territory even after merger. In May 1969 the Director of Public Instruction was conferred the ex-officio Secretariat status of a Deputy Secretary. With effect from 1973 the Directorate of Public Instruction was redesignated as Directorate of Education and at the same time an incumbent of the Indian Administrative Service became the Director enjoying the ex-officio status of a Secretary.

All matters of school administration are now regulated by circulars, memoranda and notifications issued from time to time by the Director of Education as the executive head and by the Secretary (Education) as its administrative head. No manual as such is followed although the Madras Educational Rules are followed in Pondicherry and Karaikal while the Kerala Educational Rules and the Andhra Pradesh Educational Rules are followed in Mahe and Yanam respectively.

The Directorate was reorganised on 26 October 1973\* with a view to rationalising the workload of various sections and officers in the Directorate and to exercise better control over the accounts of the various educational institutions in the Territory. Further, in order to improve the efficiency of purchase transactions and to effect some economy in the purchase of items required by educational institutions, a Central Purchase Organisation was established in the Directorate. The Special Officer for Women's Education was redesignated as Assistant Director of Education (Women's Education). As a result of this reorganisation the Directorate came to consist of two Establishment Sections (I and II) three General Sections (I, II & III), a Plan Section besides the Receipt and Despatch Sections. Apart from these seven sections there are three wings viz., the Secretariat Wing the Library Wing and the French Education Wing, three Cells viz. the Statistical Cell, the Public Relations Cell and the Aided Project Cell and two units viz. the Audio-Visual Education Unit and the Gazetteer Unit. On the accounts side there are three sections (I, II & III) to deal with (1) bills and inspection of accounts, (2) midday meals and (3) budget and audit and the Central Purchase Organisation,

The Director was assisted by two Deputy Directors, one drawn from the P.C.S. Cadre and another from the Educational Cadre both of whom were conferred the ex-officio status of Under Secretary to deal with policy matters. The Deputy Director (Administration) was placed in-charge of Establishment Sections I & II and the Public Relations Cell. He also attended to all establishment matters including recruitment and appointment of all categories of staff in the Education Department. The Deputy Director of Education (Plan) attended to all plan schemes, the UNICEF Aided Science Project, plan budget, educational statistics, Legislature and Parliament questions and all non-establishment matters pertaining to Collegiate and Technical Education. Apart from the Statistical Cell and the Aided Project Cell, the Plan Section and the General Section I

<sup>\*</sup> Vide G.O.Ms. No. 65/73/DE dated 26 October 1973.

were also under his control. The Assistant Director (Women's Education), among other things, attended to all matters relating to women's education, N.C.C., Bal Bhavan, Teachers Training Centre, Teachers Welfare Fund, Celebrations, Scouts and Guides, besides functioning as Head of Office for the staff working in all Government Girls' Schools in Pondicherry region. The General III Section was placed under the control of the Assistant Director (Women's Education).

The Special Officer for French Education dealt with all matters relating to French education in the Territory. He also attended to all non-establishment matters of School Education and Libraries besides discharging the functions of Head of Office for the staff of all French Schools in Pondicherry region. The General II Section as well as the Library Wing were under his immediate control.

The Accounts Officer was overall in-charge of accounts and audit and the Central Purchase Organisation which was formed on 26 October 1973 for the purpose of centralising all the purchases of materials and equipments required for institutions under the Directorate of Education. He also dealt with matters pertaining to the Grant-in-aid scheme. The Junior Accounts Officer attended to all matters relating to non-plan budget, inspection of accounts and midday meals programme, besides performing the duties of Drawing Officer for the establishment of the Directorate, girls' schools and French schools in Pondicherry region.

The Audio-Visual Education Officer attached to the Directorate was placed in-charge of the Audio-Visual Education Unit and was responsible for the implementation of audio-visual programmes in the Territory. (For more details see under Audio-Visual Education). On 26 October 1973 the Audio-Visual Education Officer was nominated as District Educational Officer II for purposes of carrying out inspection of all High Schools in Zone I & II in Pondicherry region.

The Chief Inspector of Physical Education dealt with all matters connected with physical education and the organisation and growth of sports and games in the Territory. (For more details see under Physical Education). The Deputy Librarian assisted the Speical Officer for French Education to deal with all matters connected with branch libraries in the Territory. The Gazetteer Unit was formed as part of the Directorate of Education in April 1970 to undertake the preparation of a Gazetteer for Pondicherry.

For purposes of administering the educational institutions in the Territory, Pondicherry region consisting of five zones was treated as a District and placed under the control of the District Educational Officer I. He was also in-charge of the CARE programme. Karaikal region together with Yanam consisted of two zones and functioned as an independent District under the District Educational Officer with headquarters at Karaikal. Following the reorganisation effected on 26 October 1973, Zone I & II comprising Pondicherry, Mudaliyarpettai and Ozhukarai Communes were taken away from the jurisdiction of the District Educational Officer I and placed under the control of the Audio-Visual Education Officer who came to be nominated as District Educational Officer II. The District Educational Officer, Karaikal, was given some special assignments (Third All India Education Survey).

There were in all seven Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the Territory directly placed in-charge of all the seven zones, five in Pondicherry and two in Karaikal. While three Deputy Inspectors of Schools functioned under the District Educational Officer I, two Deputy Inspectors of Schools were placed under the District Educational Officer II in Pondicherry region. The two Deputy Inspectors of Schools in-charge of the two Zones in Karaikal region were controlled by the District Educational Officer stationed in Karaikal.

Inspection and supervision of schools:

For purposes of inspection of Primary and Upper Primary Schools, Pondicherry was divided into seven zones and Karaikal into two, each placed under the immediate control of a Deputy Inspector of Schools as detailed below:

Zone	Communes					
	Pondicherry					
Zone I	Pondicherry					
Zone II	Mudaliyarpettai & Ozhukarai					
Zone III	Ariyankuppam & Bahur					
Zone IV	Nettappakkam & Villiyanur—South of Villupuram road.					
Zone V	Mannadipattu & Villiyanur-North of Villupuram road.					
	Karaikal					
Zone I	Karaikal, Nedungadu & Kottuchcheri					
Zone II	Niravi, Tirunallar & T.R. Pattinam.					

Prior to 1 November 1973, the only District Educational Officer in Pondicherry was the Inspecting Officer for all schools except girls' schools and French schools in the Territory. The inspection of the Blind School and and Dumb School in Pillaichavady, the Certified Ariyankuppam and all mixed schools in Pondicherry region was also his responsibility. The District Educational Officer, Karaikal was the Inspecting Officer for all schools in Karaikal and Yanam regions. The Gazetted Headmaster of Jawaharlal Nehru High School, Mahe was the Inspecting Officer for all schools in Mahe region. In the context of the rapid increase in the number of educational institutions in the Territory, it was found necessary to reduce the jurisdiction of the District Educational Officer, Pondicherry, in order to facilitate better and frequent inspection of schools. It was under these circumstances that the Audio-Visual Education Officer, Pondicherry, was as District Educational Officer-II with powers to inspect all schools except girls' schools, French schools and high schools in Zone I & II of Pondicherry region, while the jurisdiction of the District Educational Officer I stood reduced to Zone III, IV & V in Pondicherry region and to all high schools except girls' schools, French schools and Branch libraries in Pondicherry region. The two zones in Karaikal region consisting of three communes each were placed under the jurisdiction of the District Educational Officer, Karaikal. The inspection of primary and upper primary schools in Mahe was made the responsibility of the District Educational Officer, Karaikal. The primary and upper primary schools in Yanam were placed under the jurisdiction of the Headmaster of Yanam Government High School, who also functioned as the Delegate to the Director of Education in Yanam.

Until the post of Special Officer for Women's Education was converted into the post of Assistant Director (Edn.) the inspection of all girls' schools in the Territory was the responsibility of the Special Officer for Women's Education which subsequently devolved upon the Assistant Director (Women's Education). The inspection of all French schools in the Territory was the responsibility of the Special Officer for French Education.

The increase in the number of teachers in the Territory since merger will be evident from the following statement:

Year	 	Government	Private	Total
1956–57	 	646	379	1,025
1959–60	 	986	494	1,480
1961-62	 	1,388	458	1,846
1963-64	 	1,735	651	2,386
1965–66	 	2,001	762	2,763
1967-68	 	2,292	808	3,100
1969-70	 	2,591	855	3,446
1971-72	 	2,961	835	3,796
1973-74	 	3,435	840	4,275
1974-75		3,583	831	4,414

In the course of eighteen years i.e. between 1956 and 1974, the number of teachers in government schools increased almost five times while the number in private schools increased a little more than two fold. In actual fact there has been a fall in the number of teachers working in private schools between 1960-61. The pay, leave, discipline, provident fund and pension of government teachers are governed by norms fixed by the government. Private managements do not strictly follow these norms. While teachers in government service are eligible for retirement benefits, the teachers working in management schools are not eligible for any kind of retirement benefits like General Provident Fund, gratuity or pension.

The problem of housing for teachers assumed some importance with the establishment of more and more schools in not easily accessible rural areas. The employment of women teachers in such remote areas made it all the more necessary to provide them with houses near their schools. No precise data of the houses built for teachers prior to 1954 is available. However, after merger, the administration took steps to provide quarters in rural areas especially for women teachers. Women teachers who are not provided with quarters are paid a special monthly allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem.

According to the information furnished by the Directorate, schools located in the following villages were provided with quarters:

Sl. No.	Region or Village				Type of quarters	No. of guarters	Year of construction
(1)	(2)	_			(3)	(4)	(5)
	I	ondi	cherry l	Region	3		
1.	Manappattu	• •	• •		Q.W.T.	2	N.A.
2.	Pillaiyarkuppam (Bahur)	6		52	,,,	2	,,
3.	Seliyamedu				,,	2	**
4.	Bahur (Basic School)		•		"	2	,,
5.	Kuruvinattam				,,	2	**
6.	Madukkarai			i kan Palan	,,	4	**
7.	Kalmantapam		in the		**	2	,,
8.	Kariyamanikkam	₹	न्यमेन	तपने	,,	1	"
9.	Embalam				,,	2	**
10.	Sorappattu				,,	2	,,
11.	Vadanur		••		**	2	**
12.	Tirubhuvanai				,,	2	**
13.	Pillaiyarkuppam (Villiyanı	ur)		٠.	,,	2	,,
14.	Kunichampattu				,,	2	**
15.	Pillaichavadi				"	3	,,
16.	Uruvaiyar		• •		**	2	,,
17.	Ariyankuppam		••		,,	2	**

(1)	(2)					(3)	(4)	(5)
18.	Bahur	••			• •	S.Q.	8	N.A.
19.	P.S. Palayam					,,	8	**
20.	Madagadippattu					**	4	,,
21.	Nettapakkam					S.Q.	10	,,
22.	Ozhukarai					,,	2	,,
23.	Alankuppam					,,	2	,,
24.	Kalapet					1,	2	"
25.	Muttirapalaiyam	••	 Al	F.		S.Q.	1	1973
			Kara	tikal R	egion	,		
1.	Kurumbagaram			14-1		Q.W.T.	2	1963
2.	Kottuchcheri		• •			,,	2	1963
3.	Puvam		.,		77.1	,,	2	1963
4.	Tirunallar					,,	2	1963
5.	Niravi			-4 <b>44</b>	745	,,	2	1963
6.	T.R. Pattinam			• •		,,	2	1964
7.	Vilidiyur			• •	• •	"	2	1967
8.	Karaikalmedu					**	2	1968
9.	Ambagarattur					••	2	1969
10.	Kil Kasakkudi	• •	••	••	••	S.Q.	2	N.A.

Q.W.T. — Quarters for women teachers.

S.Q. - Staff quarters.

N.A. -- Not available.

## Training and orientation:

Following the appointment of an Audio-Visual Education Officer in 1965, the officer concerned was placed in-charge of the Teachers' Training Centres, pre-service (E.F.E.N. Exam.) in-service training for teachers in the Territory.

In order to improve the professional efficiency of teachers and their standard of teaching, periodical conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. are held for primary, upper primary and secondary school teachers. Secondary school and college teachers are deputed to attend refresher courses on various subjects. In 1968, an orientation workshop for graduate teachers of Science and Social Studies was held at the Teachers' Training Centre in collaboration with the N.C.E.R.T. In 1969, two Evaluation Workshops, one for the benefit of trained graduate teachers handling English and another for those handling Mathematics in high schools were conducted with the assistance of the N.C.E.R.T.

In 1971, the Unit conducted two workshops for two batches of 50 graduate teachers each to train them to prepare Simple Visual Aids for class room teaching. Another training programme was conducted for 27 graduate lady teachers from various Girls' High Schools in Pondicherry on how to handle filmstrip projectors and epidiascopes.

Following the introduction of the UNICEF assisted Science Scheme as a pilot project in 1971 covering 50 primary schools and 30 upper primary schools, 190 secondary grade teachers (100 teachers from upper primary schools and 90 teachers from primary schools) in the Territory were trained in the new methodology of teaching. The scheme was extended to 30 upper primary and 20 primary schools under the Wider Expansion Programme. In all 160 teachers were trained under the Wider Expansion Programme. In order to supervise and guide the teachers, four Senior Science Assistants were appointed under the scheme to visit the schools frequently. Common examinations were conducted in science subjects for all schools covered under the scheme. The entire expenditure incurred under the Pilot Project was reimbursed by the UNICEF and 50 per cent. under the Wider Expansion Programme.

The teaching of mathematics was reorganised in 15 selected upper primary schools wherein new syllabus was adopted. Training courses were conducted for the benefit of teachers handling the subject.144

## Text-books, curricula and examinations:

Text-books prepared or approved by the Tamil Nadu Text-Book Committee are prescribed for primary, upper primary and secondary schools in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. In Mahe and Yanam, text-books as prepared or approved by the Government of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh respectively are prescribed. The same principle is followed in the matter of syllabi for schools. As for university courses the curricula as prescribed by the University of Madras are followed in all colleges in Pondicherry and Karaikal, while colleges in Mahe and Yanam follow those prescribed by Calicut and Andhra University respectively.

The S.S.L.C. Examinations in Pondicherry and Karaikal are conducted by the Tamil Nadu Board of Secondary Education. The S.S.L.C. Examinations in Mahe and Yanam are conducted by the Board in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh respectively. So far as Matriculation and University Examinations are concerned they are conducted by the concerned Universities exercising jurisdiction in the respective regions of the Territory.

So far as French Education is concerned, text-books and curricula as prescribed by Rennes University in France for Baccalauréat examination are followed at the Higher Secondary stage. Pondicherry is recognised as a Centre for holding the examinations. While the papers are valued in France, the oral examinations are held in Pondicherry itself. The 'diploma' is issued by the University of Rennes. The syllabi for 'Brevet' and 'Certificat' examinations are determined by arrêté. Text books for the courses are, however, obtained from France. The valuation of papers are done by several committees set up for the purpose. They meet on the appointed day and proceed to value the papers and the results are announced a few days after the examinations.

#### Free education:

Education in French was free at all levels during the French period. It was free for girls at all levels for any type of education (French or Indian). Private and government schools imparting education according to the Indian system charged fees for boys at all levels. But after merger, in accordance with the policy of the Indian Government, education was made free for boys upto III Form with effect from October 1959.145 With effect from I August 1960, exemption from payment of school fees was given to girl students preparing for Matriculation or S.S.L.C. Examination.146 Subsequently, upon a resolution passed by the Representative Assembly, boys' education upto VI Form was made free in 1967.147

Education at the Pre-University and Pre-Technical level also became free from the academic year 1970-71.

## Midday meal scheme:

The practice of providing midday meal to poor school children was in vogue even prior to merger. It appears that this facility was first made available to children in Ecole des filles in rue Dumas, Ecole de la rue Surcouf and Ecole des filles de la rue des Missions prior to 1938. From 1938 onwards the scheme was gradually extended to other schools. The expenditure was met from the funds of Conité de Bienfaisance. In 1955, midday meal was provided for children in 26 centres. The progress of the scheme since then has been phenomenal as would be evident from the following statement:

Year		N	o. of instit		Expenditure incurred	No. of stubenefited	
		_	vernment chools	Private schools	E.W.	Sovernment schools	Private schools
1955–56	• •	,.	35	+++	. —	6,428	
1959-60			135		3,09,451	18,127	
1965–66			217	14	7,49,125	39,800	_
1968-69			219	14	9,70,824	33,000	1,478
1973-74			239	——————————————————————————————————————	8,82,700	42,600	
1974-75			239		12,43,000	42,780	_

In 1958, a Canteen Inspector was appointed to supervise the midday meal programme in schools. A separate scheme for the supply of midday meals to poor children in recognised private elementary schools was implemented for the first time in 1961. With the steady increase in school population, students studying upto V class alone were declared eligible for midday meal, provided their parents' income did not exceed Rs. 1,500 per annum. This restriction of income ceiling was removed with effect from 1 September 1969 following the introduction of the CARE Programme in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. Since then CARE food was supplied for three days and rice for two days. The programme is now implemented under the supervision of the Headmasters of the schools concerned.

Following the introduction of the Applied Nutrition Programme in 1970, items such as seeds, implements and fertilisers, handpumps and electric pumpsets were given to some schools in the Territory for raising kitchen gardens so as to utilise the vegetables grown for the Midday Meal Programme.

#### Book Banks:

The first four Book Banks in the Territory were opened in the high schools at Muttirapalaiyam, Villiyanur, Nettappakkam and Nedungadu. The Book Bank facility was then extended to four more high schools viz. in Bahur, Ariyankuppam, Embalam and Tirunallar. Apart from these, a Book Bank was opened in Tagore Arts College with financial assistance from the University Grants Commission. The objective is to cover all schools and colleges in the Territory.

#### Grant-in-aid:

The Grant-in-aid code of 1966 was so framed as to help private educational institutions in the Territory. Financial assistance is provided in the form of maintenance grant, grants for buildings, building sites, playgrounds, furniture, books and appliances. Orphanages and boarding homes are eligible for boarding grants for destitute children. Institutions engaged in pre-primary education are also eligible for recurring and non-recurring grants. Privately run primary and upper primary schools which were eligible for subvention as per the arrêtés governing their establishment during the French period continued to enjoy the benefit even after merger.

Funds provided under the scheme are also utilised for granting educational concession to children of service personnel, those killed in action, Burma repatriates as well as Ex-service personnel. Quite apart from these, full fee concessions and **prime d'examen** are also sanctioned. The quantum of this assistance varies depending upon the number of students coming out successful in the examinations conducted by the administration.

The Banasthali Vidyapeet in Jaipur (Rajasthan) was sanctioned an annual grant of Rs. 500 by this administration.

#### Scholarships:

Several scholarship schemes financed both by the Central Government and the Pondicherry Administration are in operation in the Territory. The pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for the children and grand children of political

sufferers were introduced in the year 1962. This scholarship is available to all children and grand children of political sufferers whose income does not exceed Rs. 300 per mensem.

Among the scholarships awarded by the Central Government, mention may be made of the National Scholarships for talented children from rural areas. These scholarships which are distributed among States and Union territories at the rate of two scholarships for each Community Development Block with marginal adjustments are available both for Secondary and University education for really brilliant students hailing from poor families.

The Government of India introduced during the III Plan the National Scholarships Scheme for the award of merit scholarships for post-matriculation studies. Students in this Territory are also eligible for the National Scholarships for Children of School Teachers as a token of recognition of the services rendered by teachers. The National Loan Scholarships provide financial assistance to needy and meritorious students to complete their education. Scholarships for students from non-Hindi speaking States for post-matric studies in Hindi as well as scholarships for the blind, the deaf and the orthopaedically handicapped are also available for students of this Territory.

As for the Central Scholarships, the details of scholarships allotted to this Territory together with details of fresh scholarships and renewals during 1974-75 are furnished below:

Scholarships	Scholar- ships allotted	Fresh scholar- ships	Renewals during 1974–75
The National Scholarship for talented children		•	
from rural areas	6	6	11
Merit Scholarship for Post-Matriculation Studies	125	125	184
National Loan Scholarships	17	17	25
National Scholarships for Children of School Teachers	4	4	6
Scholarship to students from Non-Hindi speaking States for Post-Matric studies in Hindi*	2	2	N.A.
Scholarships for the blind, the deaf and the ortho- padeically handicapped*	2	2	N.A.

<sup>\*</sup> These scholarships are sanctioned directly by the Government of India. N.A. = Not available.

#### Educational endowments:

Savarayalu Endowment Prize: This prize was instituted on the occasion of the centenary celebration of a girl's school started at the initiative of Poet Savarayalu Nayagar with the money donated by the members of his family in 1968. The income from the endowment is utilised every year for the award of a cash prize to a girl student securing the highest mark in the S.S.L.C. public examination for pursuing her studies in the college. In case the girl securing the highest rank does not pursue her studies, the cash prize is awarded to the next eligible girl candidate. In the event of a tie, the prize money is divided equally among the eligible candidates. 149

Sinnatha Mudaliar & Company and Ramalinga Chettiar Endowment Trust: This trust was formed in the year 1970. Three cash prizes are awarded to three girls securing the first three ranks in the school final examination of Sinnatha Girls' High School, Muttiyalupettai. The cash is divided in the ratio of 4:2:1.150

Sinthamani Candappa Endowment Prize: This prize was instituted in the year 1970 for awarding every year a cash prize to a girl student in the Government Girls' High School, Laporte Street, securing first rank in the S.S.L.C. (Tamil medium) examination.

Jawaharlal Nehru High School, Mahe, Golden Jubilee Endowment Fund: This fund was constituted in the year 1971 which marked the Golden Jubilee Year of the School. The income accruing out of this fund is meant to be utilised for offering scholarships or prizes to poor and deserving students of Mahe. While seven—tenths of the income from the fund is set apart for providing scholarships, three—tenths of the amount is meant for the award of prizes. The fund is operated by the Headmaster of Jawaharlal Nehru High School, Mahe, in terms of a Memorandum dated 22 December 1971.

Students Welfare International: Known as Pondicherry Students Welfare Society at its inception in 1961, it was organised with a view to help the student community in Pondicherry. In the beginning, the society helped students with interest free loans, free health check-up and a Technical Reference Library. The society also helped to institute 25 rolling trophies with the cooperation of some philanthropists for the purpose of conducting Inter-Collegiate contests. In 1971, however, all these trophies were handed over to the government with a request to organise these contests under its auspices. The Inter-Collegiate contests were resumed in January 1975.151

#### Awards:

In 1970 the administration introduced a scheme for the award of trophies and merit certificates to schools producing the best results in the Matriculation, Brevet and S.S.L.C. examinations with the object of improving the standard of education in the Territory.

Upto 1973, Merit Certificates were issued based on a system of gradation. Since then certificates are issued to all institutions securing 85 per cent. and above passes in public examinations. The Chief Minister's Rolling Trophy and the Education Minister's Rolling Trophy are awarded on the Republic Day to the schools securing the best and the second best result respectively in the whole Territory. The scheme for presenting awards to teachers was introduced in the Territory in 1966.

### National foundation for teachers' welfare:

The benefits of the National Foundation for Teachers' Welfare constituted in 1962 was extended to this Territory in 1965. The functioning of the Foundation in the Territory is governed by the rules for the administration of the National Foundation for Teachers' Welfare as notified by the Government of India on 25 June 1962. A seven-member State Working Committee under the Chairmanship of the Lieutenant-Governor was constituted to carry on the operations of the Foundation in the Territory. While recurring and non-recurring grants are sanctioned to deserving cases, no award as provided under rule 17(1) (d) is given. Details of the Territory's contribution for the Foundation since 1965 and the amount received in turn from the National Foundation are given below:

Y	<b>Ye</b> ar		he territory's contribution	The amount received from the National Foundation	The amount expended during the year	Total number of beneficiaries
	(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
~			Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	
196	5		6,174.90	_	- **	
196	6.		8,450.03	4,935.92	450.00	4
196	7		8,217.43	5,354.73	2,570.00	5
196	8		21,675.74	Nil	2,700.00	8
196	9		28,511.73	46,478.04	5,460.00	2
1970	0		23,498.64	18,834.45	4,014.00	9

(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	<del></del>	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	
1971		19,936.90	8,045.00	6,660.00	11
1972		22,176.66	18,834.40	4,200.00	
1973		37,426.14	27,778.80	7,800.00	8
1974		26,293.11	21,661.00	12,350.00	12
1975		41,873.06	18,747.65	5,560.00	8

The proceeds of the funds from the Foundation have not so far been utilised either for maintaining holiday homes for teachers or to institute educational scholarships in the Territory.

## Safeguards for linguistic minorities:

In Pondicherry region, Telugu, Malayalam and French speaking people from the linguistic minorities. The number of Telugu and Malayalam speaking people is so small that there has not been any necessity to offer facilities for instruction in these two languages in this region. Students hailing from these linguistic groups join the English medium schools by preference. For the benefit of French speaking people there are French medium schools from primary to collegiate level. Students preparing for the Matriculation examination could choose Telugu, Malayalam or Tamil as second language. The linguistic minorities in the Territory generally seem to prefer English medium schools.

In 1974, the administration came forward to provide instruction in the mother tongue of linguistic minorities in the Territory at the primary, middle and secondary school level, provided there were at least a minimum of 10 pupils in a class or section or an aggregate of 40 students in the primary and middle schools and a minimum of 15 or an aggregate of 60 students respectively in secondary schools. Standing instructions were issued to entertain applications from linguistic minorities and have them registered to assess the demand for such facilities. The number of registered applications was found inadequate as to warrant the provision of such facilities so far in this Territory.

# Facilities for higher education outside the Territory :

Arrangements are made from year to year for reservation of seats for various courses for candidates of this territory in different institutions located outside the Territory, with a certain number of seats being reserved for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates. Besides teacher training and general education, the courses for which seats are made available include engineering, medicine, agriculture, veterinary science, physical education, library science, forestry and law. Facilities are available for studies in these different disciplines in one or more branches.

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## CHAPTER—XVI

## MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

# I. Survey of public health and medical facilities

Before merger:

An eleventh century inscription in the Chandramouliswara temple at Thiruppalapandal in South Arcot District and a twelfth century inscription found on two stone slabs in the Pondicherry Cathedral refer to Thiruvagasthiswaramudayadevar or Thiruvagasthiswarar of Ozhukarai. 1 Evidently the place must have been known as Agastiswaram after Saint Agastya, one of the propounders of the Siddha system of medicine. One may safely presume that the people who had built a temple in honour of this sage, must have also known the Siddha system of medicine and practised it. Without more evidence one cannot speculate further on the traditional system of medicine that must have been in vogue in these parts in the olden days. However it can be asserted that in the days of Anandarangapillai, alongside certain practices introduced by the Europeans, the traditional Siddha system of medicine was very much in vogue. When the chronicler himself was on his death-bed, he was offered karukku—an extract of strained liquor prepared by boiling some medicinal herbs in water. When coldness set in he was advised to take bhupathi or chintamani. These are medicines familiar to the Tamil School of Medicine. Bhupathi for instance is said to be a compound of gold, zinc, pearl, diamond, coral, topaz, emerald, sulphur, mercury and several other ingredients.<sup>2</sup> The Siddha system of medicine is closely connected to astrology (panchanga sothidam), philosophy (siddhantam), magic and yoga. The Siddhantam is shown as scientific proof of their proficiency in astronomical knowledge. Texts of the Siddhantam were collected by the Europeans from several places in South India. Le Gentil, the French astronomer who visited Pondicherty in 1769, is reported to have secured one of these tables from a Brahmin in Thanjavur District. In those days the affairs of state were strictly carried on in accordance with the rules laid down in astrology. The practice was so widespread that even many Europeans consulted astrologers. It is interesting to note that Dupleix often consulted Anandarangapillai on the astral prospects of his war with the English. The prevalence even today of such terms as graha thosham (planetary evil effects), graha seshtai (mischief of the planets) and kharma vyadhi (diseases consequent on the sins of the previous birth) seems to suggest that this system must have been in vogue in Pondicherry at least since the days of Anandarangapillai.

The study of the pulse based on the principle of *muppini* is peculiar to the Siddha system of medicine. The three kinds of *doshas* (humours) are ascertained from the three kinds of movements of the pulse—swift, middle and slow—felt by the pressure of the touch of the three fingers on the radial artery. Examination of the pulse furnishes the best criterion of the phenomenon and progress of a disease. That there were several people in Pondicherry who could read the pulse as a method of diagnosis is confirmed by the Diary. We hear of one Seshala Chetti, another Mutta Pillai and a Saravana Mudali who were accredited with the knowledge of reading the pulse of patients. On the strength of these evidences one may draw the conclusion that the Siddha system of medicine must have been popular in the eighteenth century.

The earliest French surgeons who came to Pondicherry were travelling surgeons from commercial enterprises. Later on, surgeons attached to the navy came to take care of the wounded soldiers of the French Company when the French had to wage wars in India. The first surgeon mentioned in despatches was Petit Bois.3 The services of these foreign doctors were often sought for by the rich and the royal courts. In fact, François Martin sent Petit Bois, Surgeon of the Loge, to treat the Governor of Gingee for an ear-ache.4

The first hospital was constructed near the sea-shore by François Martin between May 1701 and August 1704 (probably at the cutting of rue Lal Bahadur Shastri and rue Dumas). Petit Bois must have probably been the medical officer attached to this hospital. The next to be in-charge of the hospital was probably Pierre Lavergne in 1693, i.e. only two months before the loge fell into the hands of the Dutch. The chief of the hospital in 1719 was Jacques Théodore Albert assisted by Surgeon Valentine Bertherau.

Another hospital was constructed in a garden owned by the Company on the southern fringe of Pondicherry. Started in the year 1734, the construction work was completed in 1738. The need for the construction of this hospital was felt because there were always about 30 to 40 inmates, apart from 60 very old persons. This hospital also served as an asylum for the European orphans who had to be fed, sheltered, clothed and educated until

they could earn their livelihood. The medicines for the hospital were obtained from France. The management of the hospital was entrusted to a priest called Father Louis. 5

The problem of public health received the attention of Governor Lenoir who called for a sound organisation of the medical services and wanted the specialists to study the diseases of the country. He also wanted the hospital to be well maintained and provided with sufficient means to afford protection to invalids, soldiers and mariners. In Mahe, one Lambert is known to have constructed a hospital in 1731 at a cost of 180 pagodas.

Governor Dumas wanted to construct a home for the convalescents (maison de convalescence) at Ozhukarai. The matter was under prolonged correspondence between the company and the authorities in France. However the Convalescent Home was completed in 1744 during the governorship of Dupleix who carried out some of the projects initiated by his predecessor Dumas. This maison was meant also for the sick.8

Although there were European doctors to take care of French soldiers, some of them preferred to be treated by native physicians in their huts. 9 The reason for the popularity of native physicians is not known. Apart from those surgeons of the navy and native physicians, the missionaries too practised medicine. Father Choisel who served the company since 1737 was well-known both for his skill and spirit of self-sacrifice. The missionaries had a remedy for snake bite, the formula for which they had reportedly learnt from a Jesuit priest of the old Carnatic Mission. 10

According to M.V. Labernadie, surgeons in the eighteenth century were not always very proficient in their job.11 Moreover their number in Pondicherry was not always found adequate. Hence some of the natives were trained as compounders and later as doctors. The most distinguished among the Indians was Ambou who took part in various combats and rose to the rank of Surgeon Major (also called Malabar Surgeon Major). He was awarded a Certificate of Merit for services rendered to soldiers wounded during the siege of Pondicherry in 1778. He was paid 1500 pounds while in service and was granted a life pension of 300 pounds to be paid out of Municipal revenues. He had two sons who also became military doctors. He died on 24 August 1798.12 The other famous Indian physician was Veerassamy who rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel and served in various French islands.13

In 1816, three medical officers viz. François Gravier, Pierre Tassy and Jean Baptiste Dubois and the pharmacist Bernard Plagne arrived in Pondicherry to form the nucleus of the health services. On 8 July 1832 a hospital (maison de santé) was opened at the initiative of Governor de Melay to render free medical service to the people. This hospital was located in a private house somewhere in the northern sector of the town.

In 1841 the former Governor Desbassyns de Richemont had endowed a sum of 15,386 francs in favour of the Comité de Bienfaisance for the construction of a Leprosarium in Pondicherry. 14 In 1847, the administration donated to the Comité de Bienfaisance a site measuring 82.46 sq. metres in Olandai village for the construction of the lepers' asylum.

In 1853, a military hospital with 40 beds was constructed in Pondicherry for the treatment of officers, sailors, private persons, etc. The present General Hospital then known as 'Hôpital Colonial' was also established the same year with a capacity of 100 beds. This was built on a site which belonged to the Comité de Bienfaisance. It consisted of a maternity ward, a ward each for orphans, convicts and mental patients. 15 The sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph de Cluny helped to run the hospital.

Conseil de Santé: On 1 July 1863 the administration constituted the Conseil de Santé (Health Council) in Pondicherry on the pattern of similar bodies in France and other colonies in order to streamline the working of hospitals and to deal with all matters connected with public health. This Council which was required to meet every Thursday maintained a watch over the various medical institutions in the town and its employees. The deliberations of the Council were to be communicated to the Ordonnateur who was required either to issue instructions as a follow-up or refer them to the Governor for orders. The officiers de santé stationed in the outling settlements were required to be in touch with the Council and carry out its instructions.16

Commission Sanitaire: The constant threat of epidemics made it imperative to take some effective measures to improve the hygienic conditions of the establishments and to give a durable shape to measures designed to fight epidemics. Hence, in order to deal with all matters falling within the purview of 'police sanitaire', but not within that of Conseil de Santé, a 'Commission Sanitaire' was constituted by the arrêté of 9 January 1867. This Commission

had to take measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases, especially on account of traffic through the port. In the outlying establishments, sanitary measures were undertaken by the 'Chef du Service' in consultation with the médecin de la marine.17

A few years later the administration felt that it would be more feasible to entrust all matters relating to public health hitherto attended to by the Conseil de Santé to this Commission. Accordingly by the arrêté of 28 December 1868, the Commission was called upon to look after all matters relating to health under the authority of the Ordonnateur. Moreover the Commission Sanitaire was required to offer its advice on all matters connected with public health and hygiene. Since then, the Conseil de Santé had to play only a restricted role like the Councils in other colonies.18

Conseil d'hygiene et de Salubrité Publique, Pondichéry:

The duties of the Commission Sanitaire came to be restricted by the arrêté of 4 May 1872 to those defined in the arrêté of 9 January 1867 i.e. to prevent the outbreak of epidemics. The Commission Sanitaire was redesignated as Conseil d'hygiene et de Salubrité Publique. This Council which played an important role in maintaining public health was required to meet at least once a quarter and tender advice on all matters relating to public health. It was especially consulted on the following matters:—

- 1. Improvement of sanitary conditions around localities and dwelling units:
- 2. Prevention and control of endemic, epidemic and communicable diseases:
- 3. Epizootic and animal diseases;
- 4. Improvement of sanitary conditions of agricultural and industrial population;
- 5. Cleanliness of workshops, schools, prisons, bazaars, etc.

The Council had also to tender advice on matters relating to the popularisation of vaccine, organisation of health-care, etc. From time to time, the government in consultation with the Council issued orders for the protection of public health by enforcing preventive measures. The Mayors were responsible for the execution of these orders. In times of emergency affecting public health, the Governor was empowered to order immediate execution of his orders,

which had to be carried out within twenty-four hours of their notification. Similarly construction of new buildings and alterations to old buildings could be carried out only after obtaining the permission of the Mayors of the respective communes. However, the Mayors could issue such permission only in consultation with the Council, after ascertaining that the standards prescribed by the government were being adhered to.19 No major development or change took place in the system of public health administration except that a Corps de médecine (Sages-Femmes) was organised in 1912.

The year 1925 was a landmark in that several laws were passed in order to organise a sanitary service to inspect all educational institutions in the territory to determine the status of midwives and sanitarians in the hospital, to organise a Corps of Assistant Vaccinators, a Corps of technicians and medical assistants to serve in the hospitals and pharmacies, to streamline the working of hospital services, public health and hygiene in the colony. The arrêté of 8 January 1926 provided for the inspection of schools and colleges. This inspection was carried out on the orders of the Chef du Bureau d'Hygiene Health records of the students were maintained in the same way as it was done in France.

Not much improvement seems to have been carried out in the General Hospital till about 1926 when, under a plan drawn up by Dr. J.De Geyon, an operation theatre, a Bacteriological Laboratory, a Maternity Pay Ward and two suites for officers were newly opened. The Microbiology Laboratory Service was started again in 1930.\* Two wards for children were opened in 1932. In 1935, Lt. Col. Gaffiéro reorganised the General Hospital. He was also responsible for setting up a separate maternity hospital in 1937 as facilities in the General Hospital were found inadequate to meet the growing number of confinements. On completion of the work, the maternity wing was shifted to its new building on 14 April 1939. 20 Gaffiéro's other services in the field of preventive medicine and prophylactics are also noteworthy. He crusaded against smallpox and cholera and established for the first time an isolation ward known as Lazaret for the treatment of patients suffering from diseases. In 1948 a leprosy clinic (Service de Lepre) was opened in the General Hospital.

<sup>\*</sup> A microbiology service is understood to have been started even earlier and closed down.

Government Pharmacy: The Government Pharmacy in Pondicherry is a very old institution. It began its operation on 20 June 1829.21 One or two private pharmacies were already in operation since 1825. The two private pharmacies which were not very successful were merged with the Pharmacy in 1829. In 1843 the pharmacy was reorganised and placed under a 'pharmacien en chef'. Following the recommendations of a four-member Commission, the pharmacy was again reorganised in 1849. The pharmacy was authorised to issue medicines only to hospitals and other institutions as determined by the administration. Low paid government servants and pensioners were issued medicines free of cost. The same order classified medicines into three categories viz. those issued without a doctor's prescription, those issued on a doctor's prescription and poisonous drugs. The pharmacy also maintained a list of doctors who were eligible to prescribe medicines,22 In an attempt to consolidate all the different rules and orders touching on the subject of pharmacy, a new arrêté was issued on 13 September 1866.

The earliest legislation to control pharmacies and the sale of drugs goes back to 1823. In 1850 an order was issued stipulating certain qualifications and conditions for running pharmacies and drug stores in the establishments. These drug stores were to be inspected four times a year by a Committee nominated for the purpose.23 Following the International Conference held at Brussels (1902) which dealt with the question of the preparation and composition of medicines, a new law on the manufacture and sale of drugs was passed in France in 1908. This measure was extended to the colonies by the arreté of 8 December 1910.24 The décret of 30 April 1911 prescribing more stringent qualifications for pharmacists, and touching upon the sale of poisonous drugs and inspection of pharmacies and providing for punishment for the sale of spurious drugs, etc. was extended to the French establishments by the arrêté of 22 June 1911.25

The pharmacy underwent further changes in 1924 and 1934. The arrêté of 1934 created three units in the pharmacy viz. a Central Store, a Retail Store and a Manufacturing Unit, each functioning independently. The Central Store purchased and stocked all the medicines required for distribution to all medical institutions and the retail store. The Retail Store assured supply of medicines to the general public. It was kept open round the clock although a surcharge was levied on medicines sold between 20 hours and 08 hours. In

the outlying establishments of Karaikal and Mahe, a pharmacy each was attached to the hospital.<sup>26</sup> Better amenities were provided in the pharmacy building in 1935 with separate facilities for all the three units. This was more or less the position even at the time of merger.

Altogether at the time of merger, curative health services were fairly adequate and preventive care not so adequate. There was one doctor for a population of 5,500, one nurse for 7,800 and one midwife for 4,300 population. Rural areas were not adequately covered by sanitary inspectors, health visitors, vaccinators, etc. Almost all doctors were in government service. There were in all six hospitals and 32 dispensaries with a total of 886 beds in the Territory, working out to a ratio of three beds per 1,000 population. Municipal health administration was poor due to lack of finance and trained personnel. The system of school health inspection was not followed up. The few textile units in the town had their own system of medical coverage. Although the system of regulation of vital statistics had many good points, yet it was defective in the sense that the data were incomplete.

On a marble plaque in the half of the erstwhile School of Medicine, Pondicherry (now the Office of the Medical Superintendent, General Hospital) are inscribed the names of 35 doctors who headed the Health Services in the course of 138 years (1816–1954) of French occupation. The last French Chief of Health Services, Dr. Belzeav handed over charge to the first Indian Chief of Health Services, Dr. P. Soucoumarin on 1 November 1954. 27

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## After merger:

Soon after merger 'Service de Santé ' was placed under the control of the newly formed Secrétariat des Affaires Politiques, Législation et Santé On the executive side, the Medical Superintendent who was the medical officer in charge of the General Hospital, Pondicherry, was also the Director of Public Health. His dual role ended with the bifurcation of powers between the Director of Health Services and the Superintendent, the former exercising control over medical institutions in the Territory and the latter confining his attention to the General Hospital, Pondicherry and the Maternity Hospital attached to it.

On the recommendation of the Seminar of State Health Secretaries and State Family Planning Officers, the Directorate of Medical Services came to be redesignated as Directorate of Health and Family Planning Services in 1966 in recognition of the importance of family planning. This was followed by

the creation of the State Family Planning Office. Simultaneously the Directorate of Health and Family Planning was reorganised into two distinct wings, the E.S.I. Wing placed under a Deputy Director of Medical Services (E.S.I.) and a Health and Family Planning Wing placed under a Deputy Director of Medical Services (Planning) with effect from 1 October 1966. The State T.B. Control Programme was launched on 11 February 1959. The State Leprosy Control Programme was launched in 1962. The State Filaria Control Officer was placed in charge of the Filaria Control Programme with effect from 1961.

In the new set-up, the Directorate came to consist of three wings. viz., one wing under a Deputy Director in-charge of Planning, another wing under a Deputy Director in-charge of Family Planning, Maternity and Child Health and the third in-charge of Employees' State Insurance.

In 1969 the Director of Health and Family Planning was declared as ex-officio Deputy Secretary to Government in an attempt to facilitate speedy implementation of plan schemes. A public health laboratory was attached to the General Hospital in 1969 to carry out the analysis of suspected cases of adulteration.

In November 1972 the Directorate was again reorganised following the formation of a Food and Drugs Control Unit under an Assistant Drugs Controller to have effective control over the sale and manufacture of drugs and food. This unit was also made responsible for the implementation of various Central and State Acts.

The Director of Health and Family Planning Services also exercised control over the Chief Medical Officers posted in the three outlying regional headquarters, viz. Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam besides the Medical Officers in charge of the various Dispensaries and Primary Health Centres. The C.M.O's are assisted by Junior Specialists/Assistant Surgeons.

Family Planning Bureau: Although the scheme was sanctioned as early as in 1956, the Family Planning Centre started functioning only from February 1958 in Pondicherry with one medical officer and a health visitor. 28 Propagation of Family Planning measures began only in 1961. However not much headway could be made in the initial stages. 29 The extension approach was not tried until 1966, when the reorganised pattern came into force. Under the reorganised pattern the extension approach was given prominence replacing the old clinical approach. The scheme gathered momentum only thereafter. At the territorial

level the State Family Planning Bureau functioned under the Deputy Director, Family Planning and Maternity and Child Health Services. The Urban Family Welfare Planning Centre at General Hospital, Pondicherry and the three Rural Family Welfare Planning Centres at Villiyanur and Bahur in Pondicherry region and at Karaikal in Karaikal region went into operation between 1966 and 1968 (All the four Family Welfare Planning Centres were in operation even before 31 March 1968).

Oral Contraceptive Pilot Projects were introduced in the Maternity Hospital, Pondicherry, the Primary Health Centre, Mettuppalaiyam and the Dispensaries at Muttiyalupettai and Villiyanur. Service facilities for IUCD and conventional contraceptives were made available in all the Primary Health Centres and dispensaries in the Territory, although facilities for carrying out vasectomy operations were not available in all those establishments. Shortly after, service facilities for tubectomy were made available in the Maternity Hospital, Pondicherry, General Hospital, Karaikal and Jipmer Hospital.30 The Territory was chosen for the introduction of the post-partum scheme in 1970 and a 16-bed sterilisation ward was newly attached to the Maternity Hospital, Pondicherry.

Food and Drugs Administration: The Food and Drugs Administration is but an offshoot of the Government pharmacy which performed similar functions under the French laws. The genesis of this new agency in the Territory is signalled by the appointment of a Drugs Inspector in the Directorate of Health and Family Planning on 3 December 1969 to recommend the issue of licences to drug manufacturers and dealers and to carry out periodic inspections of all premises where the manufacture and sale of drugs were carried on in the Territory. Carrying out inspections of medical institutions in the Territory and keeping a watch over the distribution and sale of narcotics within the Territory was also the responsibility of the Drugs Control Administration. In November 1972 the Drugs Control Administration came to be known as Food and Drugs Administration and placed under the direct control of an Assistant Drugs Controller. The Director of Health and Family Planning Services was declared as Food and Drugs Commissioner with overall responsibility for the enforcement of all relevant enactments in the Territory.

The following Central Acts having a bearing on public health were extended to the Union Territory with effect from 1 October 1963:

- 1. The Lepers Act, 1898.
- 2. The Indian Lunacy Act, 1912.
- 3. The Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916.
- 4. The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930.
- 5. The Drugs Act, 1940.
- 6. The Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.
- 7. The Pharmacy Act, 1948.
- 8. The Dentists Act, 1948.
- 9. The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements)
  Act, 1954.
- 10. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.
- 11. The Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.
- 12. The Opium Act, 1878.
- 13. The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.

Again on 24 May 1968, the following laws having a bearing on public health were extended to this Territory:

- The Vaccination Act, 1880.
- 2. The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.
- 3. The Poisons Act. 1919.
- 4. The Indian Red Cross Society Act, 1920.

While the proper enforcement of these enactments in the Territory is the executive responsibility of the Directorate of Health and Family Planning, the consequential functions are performed through the agency of the Food and Drugs Administration. The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930 was extended to this Territory with effect from 1 October 1963. But the provisions of this Act were not enforced here. However as an interim measure, the use of

psychotropic drugs in the medical institutions was regulated through the introduction of specific registers wherein details of indents and use of such drugs were to be entered. The samples of drugs drawn in the Territory were sent to the King's Institute, Madras for analysis.

As required under the Poisons Act, 1919, the Poison Rules were published in the Gazette in August 1971 and the Drugs Controller was declared as the Licensing Authority for the first time with jurisdiction over the entire Territory. The enforcement of Acts relating to medical and allied professions such as the Pharmacy Act, 1948, the Dentists Act, 1948 was also the responsibility of the Food and Drugs Administration. The provisions of these enactments came to be effectively enforced only after 1968. As required by the Pharmacy Act, 1948 the Pharmacy Council Rules which provided for the constitution of a Pharmacy Council in the Territory were notified as early as on 13 July 1972. Under the Act as many as 1,017 candidates were got registered as qualified pharmacists during 1969. Under the Dentists Act, 1948, registration of candidates was in progress.

The Pondicherry Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules framed as required under the Central enactment were published on 5 May 1971 and the Director of Health and Family Planning Services was declared as the Food Health) Authority under the provisions of the rules with powers to control and supervise the enforcement of the Act in the Territory. Medical officers were appointed to officiate as Food Inspectors as an interim measure. In 1972 efforts were made for the strict enforcement of the Act in the Territory. All the catering establishments in Pondicherry were surveyed and all defaulting institutions directed to obtain licences. About 800 catering establishments and foodstuff dealers were recommended for the issue of licence in 1972. The Food and Drugs Administration also arranged for free medical check-up of all hotel employees and this service was regulated through a Special Free Medical Treatment Card.

Mention may also be made of the Pondicherry Homeopathy Practitioners Act, 1965 (Act No. 5 of 1965). This Act was passed on 3 March 1965 and assented to by the President on 11 April 1965. As this Act was found defective and inadequate a fresh bill was framed and submitted to the Legislative Assembly in 1972.

Public Health Laboratory, Dhanwantarinagar: It was mentioned earlier that in 1969 a Public Health Laboratory was set up in the General Hospital, Pondicherry. This laboratory carried out periodic analysis of items of food, drugs and drinking water under the provisions of the various laws, besides extending facilities for bacteriological and biochemical tests for the Primary Health Centres in the Territory. The laboratory also undertook all types of miscellaneous analyses of industrial and finished products brought by private parties, industrialists and Government Departments on payment of stipulated analytical charges to ensure their conformity to standards and specifications. The chemical examination of toxic viscera and stomach washes involved in medico-legal cases and samples of drinking water was also part of its responsibility. As its functions steadily increased it was decided to have an independent Public Health Laboratory. The new laboratory building at Gorimedu (Dhanwantarinagar) which became operational on 15 October 1971 was formally declared open on 17 August 1972. The building complex consists of the Food Laboratory, Drugs Laboratory, Water Analysis Laboratory, Biochemistry Laboratory, Bacteriology Laboratory, Chemical Examiners Laboratory, besides a Lecture Hall-cum-Library, a media room and an animal room. The laboratory complex is well equipped with almost every type of equipment required for the analysis of water, food and drugs.

Central Purchase Cell: This Cell is an outgrowth of the erstwhile Pharmacie which was responsible not only for drug administration but also for the purchase and distribution of medicines to hospitals in the establishments. The Central Purchase Cell was actually set up in July 1972. Prior to the formation of this Cell, drugs required for hospitals and other medical institutions under the control of the Directorate of Health and Family Planning were purchased either from the Depot of the Madras Medical Stores or from the D.G.S. &D., New Delhi. Medicines not available with the above agencies were purchased in the open market, after calling for quotations. The Cell also arranges for the purchase of medicines which are not available with the above said agencies from the open market without calling for quotations each time but from a list of firms drawn up after calling for open tenders. The Cell then enters an agreement with successful firms for the supply of drugs for a period of one year. These tenders are scrutinised by a Purchase Committee headed by the Director of Health and Family Planning. While drugs required for hospitals are purchased directly by the institutions concerned as per the above procedure, medicines required for the Primary Health Centres and the Dispensaries are to be indented from the Government Pharmacy, 31

The Sales Unit attached to the Government Pharmacy continued to function even after merger. However, it was closed down on 7 March 1969 as it was found running at a loss. It was reopened in July 1969 with better stock of medicines as a measure of public utility. It is kept open round the clock. A Unit was started in 1972 as an adjunct to the General Hospital for the manufacture of sterile fluids required for medical institutions. (This Unit is expected to move out to the Industrial Estate shortly.) Since 1973, certain ointments, liniments, solutions, mixtures, syrups and tinctures are manufactured by the Unit for use in government hospitals and for sale to the public at cheaper rates.

Health Education Bureau: The Health Education Bureau was set up in 1970 to form part of the Directorate of Health and Family Planning on the recommendation of the Working Group on Health. The Bureau's activities include holding of exhibitions, camps, special campaigns, intensive drives, film shows, cultural programmes, etc. The Bureau gives a hand in the preparation of posters, banners, hand-outs, leaflets, brochures, etc. all of which form part of the field publicity activities of the Directorate of Health and Family Planning.

Students Health Scheme: This scheme was introduced in this Territory in the year 1962 with a view to providing better health facilities for school-going children. The children of balwadies in and around Pondicherry and the five Special Nutrition Programme Centres are also covered by the scheme.32 In 1968 a separate Student Health Unit with a full-time medical officer, otherwise called the Student Health Officer, and a Lady Medical Officer was set up in the Directorate for implementing the scheme more effectively. On an average, about 75,000 students are being examined every year by government doctors who are paid a special honorarium of 50 paise per student. During the year 1972, 62,370 students were examined of whom 41,841 students were found to carry some or other defect due to various diseases. Almost 57 per cent. of the students were found affected by deficiency diseases particularly avitaminosis, caries of teeth and worm infestations. 33

Special care was taken to treat students affected by serious diseases like Filariasis, Hansen, T.B. etc. Apart from carrying out clinical examinations of the students, follow-up treatment was also provided and medicines supplied free of cost through the head of the institution concerned. In 1971 about 25,000 pre-school health cards were supplied among the Dispensaries and Primary

Health Centres. The same year a mass miniature radiography of teachers and students was carried out in the Chest Clinic under the scheme. A dental health check-up of school children in the town area was started in 1973. This programme is to be intensified with the formation of a Mobile Dental Unit. Since 1972 an Afternoon Clinic for students is run in the General Hospital every Monday and Thursday. Since 2 August 1971 a Student Health Dispensary functions at Laspettai within the Tagore Arts College campus. Mass immunization with double and triple antigen, vaccination and revaccination, innoculation, first-aid training for N.C.C. students, school health training to student nurses, etc. are among the other activities carried out under the scheme. Physical Education Teachers were also trained on the maintenance of Student Health Cards.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme\*: There are six E.S.I. Dispensaries in the-Territory, five in Pondicherry (Pondicherry town, Mudaliyarpettai, Reddiyar palaiyam, Ariyankuppam and Gandhinagar) and one in Mahe which are manned, among others, by 11 Insurance Medical Officers, Staff Nurses, Midwives, Pharmacists, Laboratory Technicians and Male and Female Orderlies. The fully equipped dispensaries provide out-patient and in-patient treatment to the insured workers, besides attending to pathological and laboratory examinations, specialist services, postnatal and ante-natal treatment. While conveyance facilities are extended to insured workers in case of emergencies, in non-emergency cases conveyance charges are reimbursed. Insured women workers and their family members derive the benefit of confinement charges. As on 31 March 1974, as many as 13,250 workers and their families were benefited by this scheme in the Territory.

Expenditure incurred for providing the above medical facilities is shared between the Corporation and the Administration in the ratio of 7:1. As stipulated under the Act, the E.S.I. Corporation provides for sickness benefit, temporary disablement benefit, permanent disablement benefit, extended sickness benefit and funeral benefit out ofits funds benefit. maternity In-patient treatment was not available for family members of insured workers Treatment in the specialities of general medicine, surgery, midwifery, gyneacology, tuberculosis and paediatrics are provided to patients. A scheme for the provision of qualitative treatment to insured workers by Junior Specialists on a part-time basis was under contemplation. Attention is also paid to Family Planning in the E.S.I. Dispensaries. The E.S.I. Dispensary at Pondicherry

<sup>\*(</sup>See also Chapter XVII)

provides family planning services. Cases noted by other E.S.I. Dispensaries are referred otherwise to the nearest hospitals. Domicilary service was introduced with effect from February 1968. The Insurance Medical Officers are allowed to treat emergency and other deserving cases at their houses, for which they are eligible for extra allowance.

In order to provide in-patient treatment, beds are reserved in the Pondicherry General Hospital (13), Pondicherry Maternity Hospital (4), Pondicherry T. B. Sanatorium (9) and in the Mahe General Hospital (2). The proposed 50-bed E.S.I. Wing in the General Hospital will be another landmark in the progressive implementation of the E.S.I. Scheme in the Territory. Construction of permanent buildings for the E.S.I. Dispensaries was also envisaged.

The implementation of this scheme is the responsibility of the E.S.I. Wing of the Department of Health and Family Planning. The E.S.I. Unit is under the administrative control of a Deputy Director of Health and Family Planning functioning at the Directorate. A three-member Medical Board (E.S.I.) consisting of the Director of Health and Family Planning Services (Chairman) and Deputy Director of Health and Family Planning Services (E.S.I.) and the Medical Superintendent, General Hospital (members) was constituted on 18 October 1966. Its function is to decide the quantum of compensation to be paid by the Corporation to workers for injuries sustained and occupational diseases contacted in the course of their employment.

A Medical Referee was appointed by the E.S.I. Corporation on 8 January 1968 to safeguard its interests against misuse of leave certificates, claims for permanent and temporary disablement and also to settle differences of opinion if any that may arise between the Insurance Medical Officers and the insured persons. The Medical Appellate Tribunal is the appellate authority to decide all matters referred by the Medical Board. This Tribunal was constituted on 18 October 1966 with the District Magistrate as the President of the Tribunal.\* He is empowered to co-opt medical experts and officials as its members. Appeals against the verdicts of the Medical Board are entertained by the Medical Appellate Tribunal.

<sup>\*</sup> The Medical Appellate Tribunal is now headed by the Presiding Officer of the Labour Court.

A Regional Board was first constituted on 15 June 1968 with representatives of the administration, managements and employees. This was reconstituted on 23 July 1971. The Board which meets from time to time, not only advises the corporation, but also recommends changes in the administrative and executive functions. The Board may also refer complaints to the Director General with its own recommendations.

Given below is a statement showing the maternity benefit paid to women workers under the provisions of the Act:

Sl.	No.	Particulars		1967	1970	1973
1.		ber of female workers submitting returns	employed	1,807	1,531	1,200
2.		ber of female worke vered under the Act	rs excluding	1,807	1,531	1,200
3.	No. of cla	ims accepted		50	.58	56
4.	No. of mis	scarriages		_	• • -	2
5.	Amount pa	id by way of maternity	benefit	13,757.76	36,452.10	2,698.00

## II. Vital statistics

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Pondicherry had a well established system of registering vital statistics, although registration was not always perfect. The Census Superintendent (1961) attests that registration of female births was not done properly before 1964 as women did not enjoy voting right here.

Birth-rate: The Department of Preventive and Social Medicine (JIPMER) which carried out in the year 1967 a general house to house health survey in Pondicherry region fixed the birth-rate in the urban and rural areas at 33.8 and 42.9 per 1,000 population respectively. The births further showed a seasonal variation and a five year analysis showed that on the average, the maximum number of births took place from July to September.34

The registered live birth-rate and total birth-rates between 1952 and 1971 are shown below\*:

1952 1953 1954		••	3,23,714 3,28,893	12,164	37.5	685	53.3
1954	••		3,28,893			000	د.دد
	••	••		11,243	34.2	654	55.0
	• •		3,34,398	11,100	33.2	641	54.6
1955			3,40,246	12,298	36.1	732	50.2
1956	••		3,45,783	13,639	39.4	759	52.5
1957			3,50,312	14,749	42.1	814	52.3
1958			3,55,097	14,021	39.5	792	53.5
1959	• •		3,60,137	15,360	42.7	740	46.0
1960			3,65,434	15,278	41.8	673	42.2
1961	••		3,71,531	15,398	41.4	669	41.6
1962		••	3,78,991	16,361	43.2	738	43.2
1963	••	••	3,86,766	16,061	41.5	808	47.6
1964			3,94,844	15,164	38.4	645	40.8
1965	• •		4,03,213	16,692	41.4	666	38.4
1966	••	••	4,11,879	16,270	39.5	652	38.5
1967	••		4,20,846	16,544	39.3	653	37.9
1968	••		4,30,063	16,439	38.2	566	39.4
1969	••	••	4,39,514	16,742	38.1	554	32.0
1970	••	••	4,49,179	16,337	36.4	481	28.6
1971	••	••	4,71,574	17,745	37.6	451	24.8

<sup>\*</sup> Data relating to births and deaths in Pondicherry, Mannadipattu, Bahur, Nettappakkam, Ozhukarai and Villiyanur Communes could not be gathered by the Census Superintendent during the 1961 census operation as registers pertaining to the years 1880-1952 were either missing or were in a very bad shape. Hence this study was confined to the period after 1952.

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According to the above statement, the registered birth-rate was 37.5 in the year 1952. A general upward trend was noticeable upto 1962, after which there was a slight downward trend only to reach in 1971 the same level that prevailed in 1952. In spite of the general improvement in the living conditions of the people on the one hand and the better public health facilities that were made available to the general public on the other, the birth-rate had remained more or less at the 1952 level. This was attributed to the impact of the family planning programme. The still birth-rate which stood at 53.3 per 1,000 live and still-births in 1952 showed a downward trend since then and was only 24.8 in the year 1971. This was indicative of the improvement in the ante-natal care.

Death-rate: The registered death-rates between 1952 and 1971 are shown in the table below:

Year			Estimated mid-year population	Deaths	Rate per 1,000
(1)			(2)	(3)	(4)
1952			3,23,714	8,586	26.5
1953			3,28,893	8,147	24.8
1954	• •		3,34,398 सन्यमेन जयसे	7,677	23.0
1955			3,40,246	8,675	25.5
1956			3,45,783	9,152	26.5
1957			3,50,312	8,885	25.4
1958			3,55,097	7,657	21.6
1959			3,60,137	7,294	20.3
1960	• •		3,65,434	8,837	24.2
1961		• •	3,71,531	9,377	25.2
1962			3,78,991	8,369	22.1
1963			3,86,766	8,284	21.4

(1)		(2)		(3)	(4)	
1964			3,94,844	8,752	22.2	
1965			4,03,213	7,858	19.5	
1966			4,11,879	7,115	17.3	
1967			4,20,846	7,216	17.4	
1968			4,30,063	6,793	15.8	
1969			4,39,514	6,854	15.6	
1970		• •	4,49,170	7,175	15.9	
1971			4,71,574	6,388	13.5	

According to the above table the registered death-rate which was 26.5 per 1,000 population in 1952 showed varying trends up to 1961, and had since then shown a steady trend of decline to reach 13.5 per thousand population in 1971.

Death-rate in various age groups: The table below gives the registered death rate in various age groups during the years 1969, 1971, 1973 and 1975. 35

<b>A</b>	1969			1971		
Age group	 Male (2)	Female (3)	Total (4)	Male (5)	Female (6)	Total (7)
Less than one year	 888	790	1,678	646	589	1,235
From one to 4 years	 402	422	824	327	358	685
From 5 to 14 years	 241	247	488	194	189	383
From 15 to 24 years	 175	214	389	152	158	310
From 25 to 44 years	 404	315	719	407	347	754
From 45 to 64 years	 591	386	977	658	487	1,145
From 65 to 75 years	 502	405	907	388	351	739
From 75 and above	 366	392	758	487	512	999
Age not stated	 57	57	114	67	71	138

<b>A</b>		1973			1975			
Age group		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
(1)		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
Less than one year	٠.	680	566	1,246	651	520	1,171	
From one to 4 years		315	329	644	265	302	567	
From 5 to 14 years		178	228	406	211	176	387	
From 15 to 24 years	• •	181	181	362	156	143	299	
From 25 to 44 years		440	392	832	431	330	761	
From 45 to 64 years		758	519	1,277	749	433	1,182	
From 65 to 75 years		493	417	910	526	333	859	
From 75 and above		530	570	1,100	501	561	1,062	
Age not stated		41	40	81	82	75	157	
		100		76				

It is evident that the mortality rate was high in the case of those under one year and between 45-64 years both in 1969 and 1971. The decline in infant mortality may be attributed among other reasons to the improvement in the child care programme. In fact infant mortality rate was as high as 131.9 per thousand population in 1959. There was a downward trend since then to reach 92.9 in 1966. It declined further to reach 88.2 in 1967 and 55.3 in 1975.

Maternal mortality: Maternal mortality is considered as an index of the quality and efficiency of the maternity services. The table below gives the maternal mortality rate in Pondicherry between 1936 and 1966:

Year		Maternal deaths	No. of live- births	Maternal mortality rate
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)
1936	 	15	423	35.46
1941	 	28	971	28.83
1946	 	31	1,335	23.22

(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)
1951	 <u>}</u>		No data	
1956	 }		No data	
1961	 	46	2,761	16.66
1966	 	18	5,219	3.4

The maternal mortality rate which was 35.46 per 1,000 in 1936 had declined considerably to reach 3.4 per cent in the year 1966. A study made in this regard revealed that the highest mortality rate occurred between 16-30 years. 36 Such cases had never attended pre-natal clinics. The five leading causes of maternal deaths were anaemia, operative shock, sepsis, toxaemia and haemorrhages in the descending order.

Death due to various causes: The table below shows the registered death rate due to various causes during 1959-72 in the Territory:

	Diseases		1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
1.	Cholera		6	10	यमेन जपन	6	49	222	13
2.	Smallpox		440	1,029	872	370	284	69	58
3.	Plague			13	6		_		
4.	Malaria		54	198	100		_		_
5.	Other fevers		876	893	912	811	764	1,063	892
6.	Dysentery and diarrhoea	i 	613	771	1,017	874	1,107	1,016	941
7.	Respiratory diseases		488	526	368	412	560	642	499
8.	Child birth		63	60	58	47	41	43	52
9.	Other diseases	. <b>.</b>	4,754	5,337	6,044	5,849	5,479	5,607	5,303

	Diseases	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
١.	Cholera	26	2	13	7			
2.	Smallpox	3						<del></del>
3.	Plague			<b></b>	<del></del>		_	_
4.	Malaria	_	_		3		_	
5.	Other fevers	811	640	819	664	904	826	754
6.	Dysentery and diarrhoea	972	622	517	585	536	418	390
7.	Respiratory diseases	478	493	502	244	283	250	290
8.	Child birth	51	54	-31	26	29	21	52
9.	Other diseases	4,774	5,405	4,911	5,325	5,423	4,873	5,038

It is evident from the above table that 'other fevers' are responsible for a high mortality rate in the Territory. In other cases, the mortality rate is on the decline.

सन्प्रापन जायन

## III. Common diseases

#### Communicable diseases:

According to a study conducted in 1971, 31 per cent. of the deaths in the Territory were caused by communicable diseases. This probably is an under estimate, as many deaths due to infections might have been included under other categories. In India as a whole, 54 per cent. of total deaths are caused by communicable diseases, the leading causes being diarrhoea and dysentery followed by fevers. On the basis of morbidity in the general population, venereal diseases, diarrhoea in children, animal bites, tuberculosis, enteric fevers, dysentery (all forms), amoebic hepatitis, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and encephalitis are the 10 leading causes. On the basis of mortality

rates in the general population, diarrhoea in children, tuberculosis, tetanus, encephalitis, smallpox and dysentery (all forms) are the leading causes of deaths. On the basis of case fatality rate in hospital admissions, encephalitis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox, cholera and diarrhoea in children are the leading causes. A general health survey of two villages in Pondicherry region was carried out in 1967 with the object of studying the level of health of the people and the socio-economic factors that influenced it. The survey showed that the primary needs of the area were, "Improvement of nutritional status, control of communicable diseases like skin infections, eye infections, helminthic infections and leprosy, improvement of water supply and housing, prevention of soil pollution, reduction of the birth-rate and improvement in the general socio-economic condition". 37

Even before merger, cases of cholera, diphtheria, food poisoning, paratyphoid, fevers, plague, poliomyelitis, relapsing fever, smallpox, typhoid fevers, typhus and yellow fever were declared as notifiable diseases. After merger the following diseases were added to the list viz. cerebrospinal fever, chickenpox dengue, diarrhoea, dysentery (amoebic and bacillary), elephantiasis, gastroenteritis, leprosy, puerperal sepsis, rabies, scarlet fever, virus encephalitis, and haemorrhage.

In 1906 primary smallpox vaccination was made compulsory in all the establishments. A valid certificate of vaccination against smallpox was a pre-requisite for school admission.

At present immunisation is carried out against smallpox, tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis at all hospitals and primary health centres. International inoculations and vaccinations are carried out at the **Bureau d'Hygiéne**.

Smallpox: According to a study of the records pertaining to the period between 1905 and 1957 in the case of Pondicherry and between 1913 and 1953 in the case of other establishments, 33,402 deaths from smallpox were registered in the French establishments which worked out to an average of 650 deaths per annum. In other words, 6.7 per cent. of all deaths were due to smallpox. 38 In all 243 deaths occurred due to smallpox in rural areas, whereas only 20 deaths occurred in the urban area in 1957. Rural areas are more affected than urban areas. The children under 10 constituted the most vulnerable group. In 1957, the registered death-rate, due to smallpox of the children under ten was as much as 62.6 per cent.

On an average 475 cases with 263 deaths per annum occurred during 1958-61. During 1962-64, there were 123 cases with 88 deaths. The incidence of smallpox has been very negligible in recent years. The incidence increases in January and attains its peak in March-April in Pondicherry and Karaikal settlements; it attains its peak in March in Mahe and in December in Yanam region.39

Records in the Pondicherry Archives show that smallpox vaccination was carried out in Pondicherry as early as in 1804. Vaccination was however declared compulsory only in 1905. The vaccination was obligatory in the first year and re-vaccination in the eleventh and twenty-first year. 40

A mobile unit was formed in the year 1935 under the direction of the Chief of Bureau d'Hygiéne to intensify the vaccination campaign. 41 Capitaine Valle with the help of his mobile unit carried out 16,707 vaccinations in Pondicherry alone. The dry vaccine for the purpose was obtained from the Institut de Vaccine Animale, France. After merger, the Smallpox Eradication Programme was launched in this Territory on 1 May 1963. The programme was operated by the Tamil Nadu Government in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions and by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of Kerala in Yanam and Mahe regions respectively up to 29 February 1964. 42 Unde this programme, 86.0 per cent. of the population were covered. 43 Since then no regular immunisation programme as such has been put into operation in the Territory although vaccination drives are carried out from time to time. Details of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out in the Territory since 1965 are furnished below:

Year			of primary accinations	Re-vaccinations
1965	••	 	13,315	62,538
1966		 	13,765	80,020
1967	• •	 	10,038	40,405
1968		 	18,570	55,234
1969		 	16,992	49,996
1970		 	18,812	74,239
1971	• •	 	20,304	71,242
1972	• •	 	29,248	77,432
1973	••	 	24,608	71,857
1974		 	26,695	1,20,112

Cholera: It appears that even in the XIX century doctors here knew how to face the epidemic of cholera. In fact as early as in 1826, one of the native doctors in Pondicherry is reported to have been awarded a silver medal for services rendered in the struggle against cholera. The cholera incidence during 1906–1914 remained at a high epidemic level for nine years resulting in as many as 9,711 deaths. It was under these circumstances that the disease was declared notifiable in 1911. The years 1918, 1925 and 1931 also saw the outbreak of cholera taking a heavy toll of lives viz. 1,052 deaths in 1918, 1,068 in 1925 and 706 in 1931.

In 1935, the then French Administration carried out an intensive campaign of mass inoculation to control the disease. With the help of a mobile squad 28,349 inoculations were carried out in Pondicherry region and 3,846 in Karaikal. The vaccine used at that time was obtained from the Institute of Bacteriology, Guindy. The epidemic broke out again in 1942 and continued up to 1943 and declined in 1944 claiming in all 811 lives. In 1948 there were 352 deaths. It appeared again in 1950 and lasted up to 1951 with 1,017 deaths. The disease was in decline in 1952 with a few deaths followed by a rise in 1953 with 112 deaths. The territory was free from the epidemic during 1954-57. There were nine deaths between 1952-62. There was a severe outbreak in November 1963 with a death rate of 0.3 per 1,000 in Pondicherry and it lasted up to May 1964. The next outbreak occurred in November 1964 and continued up to February 1965. 44 The registered death rate for the Territory as a whole during the year 1966 was 0.7 per 1,000. The latest outbreak was reported in December 1973. In all 175 cases of gastro enteritis from various places in Pondicherry region and from Tamil Nadu were admitted in the General Hospital of which 13 cases proved positive of cholera. 45 It is evident that even though cholera continues to occur, its intensity, severity and magnitude have declined. Studies reveal that cholera epidemics occur at irregular intervals without any definite long term periodicity. The disease shows a double rise with a peak in December-March and a smaller peak in July-August during epidemic years. The incidence remains low in other months.46

A Cholera Control Programme was launched in 1973. It was manned by a Cholera Combat Team which functioned as a separate office.

Malaria: Malaria is known to have been recorded as 'fever with rigors' as early as in 1913 although it could not be ascertained whether these cases were diagnosed on the basis of finding the malarial parasite in the blood film or mostly on clinical grounds because laboratory services came into

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existence only in 1926. It has been estimated that between 1913-52, on an average 2,232 cases were treated every year in the local hospitals out of which 10 per cent. were due to malaria (fever with rigors probably). According to the same study an average of 1,560 deaths per year were recorded during the period 1913-26 and nine during 1935-53. In 1931, 351 blood films were examined for the malarial parasite and 25 (7.1 per cent.) were found positive for plasmodium vivax injection. In 1939, 2,184 blood films were examined and only 19 (0.9 per cent.) were found to be positive. The same year morbidity due to malaria was 0.25 per cent. between January-September and 0.38 per cent. from October to December indicating that the maximum number of cases was registered in the last quarter of the year after the south-west monsoon. During the years 1935-53, on the average 108 cases and 27 deaths occurred per year in children below two years and 202 cases with 26 deaths in the age group 2-5 years. In the years 1959 and 1960, 198 and 100 deaths respectively were registered due to "fever with rigors".

A malaria survey was carried out in Pondicherry in the year 1961 and 5,750 children were examined for enlarging spleen, 274 blood films of infants and 2,917 for the other age groups were examined for malarial parasite and none was found to be positive. Hence, the study concluded that malaria is not a public health problem in Pondicherry region.47

The National Malaria Eradication Programme was launched in this Territory only during the III Plan period and the work was carried on by the Government of Tamil Nadu in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions and by the Government of Kerala in Mahe region. 48 The work was attended to by the Cuddalore Unit in Pondicherry region with a Sub-Unit in Pondicherry.

The National Malaria Eradication Programme in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions was taken over by this Administration from the Government of Tamil Nadu in March 1975. During 1975, 174 cases were reported which were all imported cases. As for Mahe region, the work was attended to by the Kerala Government. The Government of Andhra Pradesh implemented the programme in Yanam region.

Passive and active surveillance is carried out by the surveillance workers as well as by Basic Health Workers in the field.

Enteric fever: The disease is endemic in the area. An average of 160 cases was reported every year during the period 1963-67 in the hospitals in Pondicherry. In all 58.4 per cent. of the total cases occurred in the age group below 14 years and mostly in the age group of 5-9 years. The overall case fatality rate was 6.3 per cent. -the highest in the age group 45-64 and 1-4 years and lowest in infants. The disease is prevalent throughout the year with a rise in April and fall in January. According to the finding of a study carried out in 1971, T.A.B. inoculations of school children, factory workers and governhelped in reducing the incidence ment servants of the disease. The report pointed out that the control of the enteric group of fevers needed control over water, sewage and food handling establishments, construction of latrine and personal hygiene. The survey report further emphasised the need for proper liaison between the hospitals and the 'Bureau d'Hygiéne' for disinfection, inoculation and control of carriers to reduce the incidence of this disease.

Ameobic hepatitis: There appeared to be an upward trend in the incidence of this disease. The incidence was however low in children below 14 years and in females. Cases were admitted throughout the year without any special seasonal distribution. A reduction of the incidence of this disease called for complete treatment of amoebic dysentery cases and the same preventive measurse as applicable to that disease.

Dysentery (all forms): It is one of the major public health problems in the Territory. According to a recent study, cases were reported throughout the year with a maximum in January and a minimum in December with a slight rise in July and August. 49 It was pointed out that its incidence can be reduced through such measures as personal hygiene, pure water, provision of latrines, proper facilities for the disposal of night soil, control of fly nuisance, treatment of carriers and improvement of sanitary standards of eating establishments.

Gastro-enteritis: This is said to be one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in children especially below five years. The cases are admitted throughout the year, the maximum number of admissions being in August and the minimum in October. The admission is lowest in the last quarter of the year. The disease is caused partly due to infection and partly due to malnutrition. "The improvement of nutritional status, environmental sanitation, good personal hygiene and health education of mothers" was suggested to reduce the morbidity and mortality rate among children.

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Infective hepatitis: This disease is known to be endemic especially in Pondicherry region. It is also estimated that there are almost 30 cases for each notified case. The lowest incidence is in infants and it starts rising in the age group of 1-4 years till it reaches its peak in the 25-44 age group. This disease is said to be responsible for high morbidity in young adults but high mortality in children. There are known to be two peak periods viz. June and December. The incidence of this disease seems to be on the increase. According to expert opinion, the control of this disease demands protected water supply, proper sewage disposal, provision of latrines, improved personal and food hygiene, sterilisation and regulations regarding blood transfusion. All these are linked with environmental sanitation and health education.

Poliomyelitis: Poliomyelitis is prevalent in Pondicherry region. The overall case fatality rate was 23.6 per cent.—the highest being in the age group of 5-14 years. Cases are known to be admitted throughout the year with the highest incidence recorded in the month of September followed by November-December and February-March. A survey carried out in the area covered by the Urban Health Centre run by JIPMER showed a post-polio paralysis rate of 0.8 per 1,000 population.

Encephalitis: The disease is locally known as 'Sani-Bada-Souram'. Dr. Lapeysonnie, the first Principal of the upgraded Medical College in Pondicherry confirmed the first diagnosis of Japanese E. encephalitis in Pondicherry in 1955 by sending the sera of the suspected cases to Paris. The fatality rate of cases admitted was as high as 41.7 per cent. Children constituted more than half of the total cases. The incidence rate was found to be high in the month of June and low in December. 50 A large number of cases was recorded in the villages of Villiyanur Commune.

Tuberculosis: The prevalence of this disease is one of the major public health problems of the Territory. From the records available, it was learnt that since the year 1935, the disease had become more widespread specially in Mahe region. Poor living conditions and malnutrition were identified as the chief cause for the spread of the disease. The military personnel who had returned from France were also cited as a possible source for the spread of the disease.

Several measures were taken to control its spread. The hospital was provided with a microscopic apparatus (appareil radioscopique). A separate tuberculosis ward was opened in 1936 in the hospital and Dr. M.Z. André, who had undergone some specialised training at the Institute of Léon Bernard was placed in charge of the ward. It was since then insisted that all candidates selected for government service should undergo a severe medical examination. The police personnel and teaching staff were also required to undergo this examination.51 In 1953, B.C.G. obtained from France was used for vaccination of school children, etc.

A T.B. Clinic was opened at Pondicherry in 1956. The staff of the clinic were sent to the National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore for training. The mass B.C.G. vaccination campaign launched in January 1959, to cover the entire territory ended in February 1961.52 The campaign was then continued with special attention to the age group 1-15 years. In 1961, a tuberculosis survey was carried out among those who attended an exhibition and the students of French College by an initial screening and a follow-up at the T.B. Clinic. The survey showed that the prevalence rate was 19.6 per 1,000 among adults and four per 1,000 among school children.53

Among the childhood type of tuberculosis cases, majority were of tubercular meningitis with a high case fatality rate ranging between 30 per cent. and 68 per cent. According to the registration data for the year 1962, the Territory ranked as the fourth highest for tuberculosis mortality in India. The specific death rate for tuberculosis was 67.7 per 1,000 in the year 1966. The incidence of this disease among children seems to show a downward trend of late.

In 1963, a 110-bed T.B. Sanatorium with X-Ray and laboratory facilities was declared open at Gorimedu. Apart from this hospital, there are two Sub-Centres, one at Karaikal and another at Mahe, besides a number of Microscope Centres (sputum examination centres) located in the Primary Health Centres. The two Sub-Centres were provided with X-Ray and screening facilities. In 1964, with the assistance of the UNICEF and the Government of India, the National T.B. Control Programme was launched in the Territory. With its launching the notification of the disease improved, and in the year 1967 as many as 1,677 new cases were registered in Pondicherry with an incidence rate of 611 per 1,00,000 population. Altogether 18.2 per cent. of them were found to be infectious with positive symptoms. Up to March 1975 three rounds of B.C.G. vaccinations were given in the Territory. New borns are vaccinated as a matter of routine in the Maternity Hospitals.

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The Tuberculosis Association formed in 1958 to render assistance to needy T.B. patients helped mainly to raise funds through the T.B. Seal Sale Compaign. T.B. workers' conferences were also held under its auspices from time to time.

Respiratory diseases: This included a large number of diseases including tuberculosis. Since 1959 this was the third leading cause of death in the territory. A study of morbidity in a slum area in Pondicherry Commune (Valakulam) was carried out in 1967 to identify the common diseases for which people sought treatment, the seasonal distribution of various diseases, etc.

The study revealed that the incidence of respiratory diseases was 120 per 1,000 population and that morbidity was highest among infants and children below four years. The highest incidence was reported between September-December every year. The children in the age group 1-4 years had concurrent and recurrent attacks of upper respiratory infection and pyodermas or upper respiratory infection with diarrhoea or a combination of all the three. An average of 467 cases due to respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis) was reported every year in the children's ward with an average case fatality rate of 8.4 per cent.54 During the year 1971, the number of cases treated in the hospitals and dispensaries in the Territory was 6,274 out of which 250 cases were reported as fatal (i.e.) with a case fatality rate of 3.9 per cent. 55

Diphtheria: Its incidence is reported mostly between July-September in the age group of 1-8 years. During 1964-67, an average of 18 cases were reported every year in the local hospital. Although this is not said to be a major health problem, immunisation of children with triple vaccine during infancy and a booster dose at the time of school entry is expected to lower the incidence of this disease still further.

Whooping cough: There are no reliable data about the disease as people do not normally seek treatment unless there are complications. An analysis of the records at the Rural Health Centre, Ramanathapuram in the year 1967 showed that the disease occurred throughout the year with a high incidence between February-April.

Plague: This does not pose a public health problem in the Territory. Except in 1960 and 1961 when ten and six deaths were reported respectively, there were no other reports of deaths.56 In 1967 again six cases were reported to have been admitted in the local hospitals, but the patients belonged to a village near Mailam in Tamil Nadu.

Leishmaniasis: The disease was declared notifiable in 1935. An average of 12 cases were treated in the hospital during the years 1935-44. There was a sudden increase in the number of infected cases during 1946-47 following the return of a large number of soldiers from the Mediterranean and African countries after World War II.57 There was a sudden spurt in the year 1951 although there is no proper explanation for it. The disease has almost disappeared from the area due to insecticidal spraying under the Malaria Eradication Programme.

Filariasis: This is one of the major public health problems in this Territory especially in Pondicherry region.

At the instance of the Malaria Institute of India, a filaria survey was conducted in Pondicherry between the fourth and twenty-sixth of March 1957 by a team from the Filariasis Training Centre, Ernakulam. The survey showed that, not even a single commune in this Territory was free from this infection. The highest incidence was in Pondicherry Commune (i.e. 7.8 per cent.) and the lowest in Tirubhuvanai (3.0 per cent.). The average infection rate was 3.9 per cent, in the outlying communes and 10.3 per cent, in Pondicherry town. The average incidence of disease manifestations for the whole of Pondicherry region was 4.7 per cent, including filarial fever and 3.8 per cent, excluding it. The average for the whole settlement was 4.7 per cent. Both in the town and in the various communes the incidence in males was slightly higher than in females i.e. 3.8 per cent, among females examined and 5.3 among males. It was seen that the disease rate progressively rose with the advance in age,58

The Filaria Survey Team recommended that proper control measures should be taken at the earliest and suggested the setting up of a Central Unit in Pondicherry region. Accordingly the National Filaria Control Programme was extended to this Territory in October 1961 and a Filaria Control Unit was set up in Pondicherry with a laboratory attached to it for carrying out entomological studies. 59 Twelve fixed and eight random Mosquito Catching Stations were put into operation in Pondicherry Commune. Another Filaria Control Unit was established at Karaikal in May 1971.

By 1972, the filarial incidence is reported to have dropped to 2.33 per cent. and the infection rate to 1.55 per cent. However a Crash Filaria Survey was carried out in Pondicherry in January 1972 covering a population of 5,466 and the microfilaria rate was found to be 6.93 per cent.60 The same

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year some vertical surveys were carried out in Pondicherry Commune among school-going children in the 5-15 age group. On the basis of the parasitological data it was reported that the infection rate was 6.87 per cent. and the average infestation was 9.45 per cent.61 Yet another filaria survey was carried out in all the communes from 12 November 1973.

The Filaria Day Clinic attached to the General Hospital, Pondicherry is open on Mondays and Thursdays. A Filaria Night Clinic is run on Wednesdays from 8 p.m. to 12 mid-night at Lal Bahadur Shastri Street, Pondicherry.

From a study of various kinds of mosquitos in Pondicherry region, it was found that only in C. fatigens infection was found and this was identified as the insect vector of this disease in the area. The density of C. fatigens mosquito which transmits filaria is high throughout the year reaching its highest level in March and lowest in July. The infection rate is the highest in June and lowest in February.62

Leprosy: This disease poses a major health problem in the Territory. As it was not found feasible to wipe out the disease from the territory through suppression of the individuals, the then administration felt that the only possible solution was to establish an asylum where the victims could find all their requirements and shelter. Thus an asylum was established as early as in 1842 at the initiative of Desbassyns de Richemont, a former Governor of French India. The asylum was built about one to two km. south of Pondicherry, near the 'camp des Macouas'.63

The arrêté of 1 May 1880 imposed certain restrictions on the movement of lepers and provided for their compulsory treatment. The provisions of this order, although very ideal by themselves, were not properly enforced. The arrêté of 22 September 1924 was another progressive step which laid emphasis on prophylactic measures. Since then the lepers' asylum at Dubrayapet came to be called as 'Hospice prophylactique'.64 In 1933 leprosy treatment was provided by all dispensaries. But in due course these dispensaries lost their popularity due to lack of interest.65 The number of known leprosy cases in 1935 was 875 i.e. 499 in Karaikal, 334 in Pondicherry, 4 in Mahe and 38 in Chandernagore. This number did not include a large number of wandering cases. In 1948, a Leprosy Clinic (Service de la Lèpre) was opened in the General Hospital, Pondicherry.

On the recommendation of the Director, Leprosy Control Work, Government of India, Dr. Chatterjee of the Indian Council of Medical Research was appointed as Leprologist in 1958. He carried out a survey to find out the extent and severity of the disease in Pondicherry region. 66 An overall study incidence of 7.1 per cent was observed. On further detailed study of communewise distribution, three different zones were demarcated as follows: 67

Ozhukarai Commune Mannadipattu Commune Nettappakkam Commune Bahur Commune

Area of high incidence (i. e. 9.2 per cent.)

Pondicherry Commune Mudaliyarpettai Commune Villiyanur Commune

Area of medium incidence (i. e. 6.6 per cent.)

Ariyankuppam Commune

Area of low incidence (i.e. 4.6 per cent.).

On the advice of Dr. Chatterjee, a proposal was mooted for building a modern Leprosy Hospital in Pondicherry. This proposal however fell through, and in 1961 the establishment of a Leprosy Colony was under consultation with the Directorate General of Health Services. This proposal also did not materialise.

As part of the Leprosy Control Programme, a Leprosy Control Unit was sanctioned in 1964, with a complement of 20 para-medical workers. The Medical Officer in charge of the Leprosy Control Programme was sent for training at the School of Tropical Medicines, Calcutta. The para-medical workers were sent to the Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute at Chengalpattu for undergoing a six-month training course on leprosy treatment. On return their services were utilised to carry out a house-to-house investigation of leprosy cases and to arrange for their treatment. 68 Eight S. E. T. Centres were put into operation in 1965. The number increased to 20 subsequently. The S. E. T. Centres are located at the following places:

- Leprosy Central Unit, Pondicherry (West)
- 2. Leprosy Central Unit, Pondicherry (East)
- 3. Muttivalupettai
- 4. General Hospital, Pondicherry
- 5. Mudaliyarpettai

- 6. Ariyankuppam
- 7. Villiyanur (Rural)
- 8. Villiyanur
- 9. Reddiyarpalaiyam
- 10. Mettuppalaiyam
- 11. Bahur
- 12. Nettappakkam

- 13. Mannadipattu
- 14. Katterikuppam
- 15. General Hospital, Karaikal.
- 16. T.R. Pattinam

- 17. Tirunallar
- 18. Nedungadu
- 19. General Hospital, Mahe
- 20. General Hospital, Yanam

Following the establishment of the Leprosy Control Unit, surveys were conducted to study the incidence of the disease. Details of the surveys carried out and the number of cases detected and the different categories of cases since 1965 are given below:

Period	Total No. of persons of examined	Total No. of leprosy cases	Lepro- matous	Neural	Border line
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1965–67	3,45,164	<b>7,</b> 309	810	5,997	502
June 1969 to— 31 December 1971	4,25,484	4,921		_	
31 December 1972	3,46,347	6,840	659	5,997	184
31 December 1973	3,51,500	1 5,731	686	4,843	202
31 December 1974	3,66,090	6,268	781	5,278	209

These surveys showed that not all cases detected had registered themselves for treatment and not all who registered themselves for treatment came to undergo treatment regularly. Studies showed that the incidence of the disease was on the increase in the Territory. A medical inspection carried out during 1969-70 showed that as many as 500 school-going children were affected by the Hansen disease—a definite index of the widespread nature of the disease and the magnitude of the threat faced by the younger generation in the Territory. 69 There is generally no restriction on cases of infection mixing with the non-infected. It also appears that the people in the area have a comparatively low resistence to the disease.

A Leprosy Clinic was opened on 31 August 1965 as an adjunct to the General Hospital, Karaikal. 'Voluntariat' a-social service organisation runs a Weaving and Spinning Centre for the rehabilitation of leprosy patients at Dubrayapet. A printing press was started on 27 July 1974 to provide jobs for cured patients as part of the rehabilitation programme. The Pondicherry Leprosy Welfare Association was formed in 1963 to work for the welfare of leprosy patients in the Territory.

Venereal diseases: The prevalence of venereal diseases in Pondicherry is attributed to the consumption of alcohol with its associated moral laxity. It is said to have assumed some special characteristics because of the frequent movements of the French Army personnel to overseas territories.<sup>70</sup>

Hospital records show a very high incidence of the disease in the Territory especially in the town. In the year 1935, the total number of persons affected by the disease was 2,897 and the number of in-patients was 192.

Up to 1959 only cases of syphilis, chancroid and gonorrhoea were diagnosed in Pondicherry. After 1960, diseases like lympho granuloma venerum, granuloma inguinale and non-specific urethritis have been diagnosed. Cases of neuro syphilis have also been recorded.

The table below gives the total number of cases treated in hospitals/dispensaries in the Territory between 1965-74: 71

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Year	No. of cases	Year	No. of cases
1965	2.997	1970	7,565
1966	3,891	1971	3,632
1967	3,619	1972	12,283
1968	6,706	1973	11,049
1969	3,770	1974	14,334

A study of the trends in the prevalence of venereal diseases in Pondicherry during 1961-65 showed that syphilis was responsible for 37.03 per cent. of the total attendance, gonorrhoea for 17.42 per cent. and chancroid for 25.85 per cent. A significant fact was that chancroid which was the third leading

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cause of attendance after gonorrhoea had moved to the second leading position. Males predominated over females in all these diseases. The incidence of granuloma was on the increase among males and females. The incidence of granuloma inguinale was very high in Pondicherry. Non-specific urethritis was responsible for 8.47 per cent. of all cases. 72

There were no adequate facilities for the treatment of venereal diseases due to lack of specialists. 73 A separate V.D. Clinic was first started in the General Hospital in the year 1936. 74 Two medical officers worked in this clinic, one from 1935 to 1953 and another from 1953 to 1959. A Veneriologist was drafted from the Medical College, Pondicherry (now JIPMER) in the year 1959. V.D. Clinics have since then been opened as adjuncts to the General Hospitals in all the other regions.

On 1 December 1973 a V.D. Control Unit was established at the headquarters and the services of the officer in charge of the Control Unit was made available to all Primary Health Centres and Dispensaries in the region.

Although the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act was in force in the Territory, the tourist traffic, together with the absence of prohibition maintained the disease in the community. It has been pointed out that compulsory serological survey and mass treatment of pavement dwellers, rickshaw pullers and the population residing in vulnerable areas can help in reducing the reservoir of infection in the town. The villagers also seem to get their infection from the town.75

Skin diseases: Scabies with pyoderma is the leading cause for morbidity followed by pediculosis, pyoderma and fungal infections. A morbidity survey conducted in Valakulam, a slum area near Pondicherry in 1967 has led to the conclusion that pyoderma was the second leading cause for morbidity after bronchitis with a morbidity rate of 64 per 1,000 population. This is identified along with upper respiratory infections or diarrhoea or all three occurring concurrently in children. The highest morbidity is registered among the pre-school children (16.6 per cent.) followed by infants (13.6 per cent.) and school children 9.9 per cent). There is no seasonal distribution and the disease is prevalent throughout the year.76

Yaws: A study of the cases recorded between 1935 and 1965 showed that the maximum number of cases was treated between 1938 and 1946 and the number started declining after 1950. There were no cases between 1959 and 1964, while only one case was diagnosed and treated in 1965. This is one of the diseases which had disappeared from the region with the liberal use of antibiotics.

Eye diseases: A study of the records pertaining to the year 1965 is reported to have showed maximum attendance due to conjunctivitis (20 per cent.) followed by Vitamin A deficiency (13.4 per cent.) and refractive errors. An ophthalmic morbidity survey carried out in a semi-urban community in Pondicherry revealed that the leading causes were: Vitamin A deficiency (8.5 per cent), cataract (6.2 per cent.), infective eye diseases (3.3 per cent.), blindness (2.5 per cent.) and defective vision (1.8 per cent.). From a survey of creches and nurseries, it was found that among children below 5 years, eye symptoms due to Vitamin A deficiency was responsible in 4.8 per cent. of the cases and eye infection in 1.4 per cent. of the cases. The underlying cause seems to be widespread malnutrition.

Incidence of trachoma is reported to be very low in Pondicherry and is said to be prevalent only among Muslims. A specific glaucoma screening of a community above the age of 30 years showed a prevalence rate of 7.2 per cent. of proved glaucoma.77

Puerperal sepsis: A recent study showed that on an average more than 130 such cases were being treated every year in the local hospitals. Many of these cases had their delivery conducted by indigenous midwives at home. It has been suggested that practical training of native midwives in scientific midwifery will help in reducing its incidence.

Tetanus: Its morbidity rate is high in the Territory. The persons mostly affected are villagers who do not take care of the wounds and who attend the hospital for treatment only on the apparition of trisms and contractions. The admission rate in the General Hospital due to tetanus ranged from 0.5 to 1.6 per cent. The admission for tetanus is high in August. The maximum number of admission occurred in the age groups 5-14 years (27 per cent.) followed by 25-44 years (16.7 per cent.) and below one year (16.7 per cent.). Females suffered more in the age group 25-44 years. In all 56 per cent. of the total cases occurred in children. The overall case fatality rate due to tetanus was 28.0 per cent. and was highest among infants.78

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Helminthic diseases: Helminthic infections due to hookworm, roundworm whipworm and thread worm are reported to be common in Pondicherry region. According to a study based on records from 1935 to 1951 more than 7,000 cases were treated every year for intestinal parasites in the General Hospital-Pondicherry alone. The consumption of beaf and pork is said to be responsible for cases of tape worm. It appears that the general population does not seek treatment for these worms. Hence statistics collected from hospital records do not present a fair index of the prevalence of these diseases.

Dracontiasis: This is prevalent only in the villages of Kalapet and Pillaichavadi in Pondicherry region. It is believed that the disease had been present in those villages for nearly a century. In 1963 a house-to-house survey was conducted in Pillaichavadi. It was found that 1.3 per cent. of the popula tion were infected. Young farmers and housewives especially those who looked after the cattle in the field were more prone to this disease.

Animal bites: This is said to be an important public health problem in Pondicherry region. An antirables clinic was started in the year 1931. According to a study, as many as 12,555 cases were treated within a period of 31 years with 81 deaths. Its incidence started rising from 1949, doubled itself in 1955 and had increased five fold by 1967. The commonest animals involved were dogs (95.2 per cent.), cat (2.7 per cent.), monkeys (1.3 per cent.) and jackals (0.9 per cent.). An analysis of the geographical distribution of cases between 1958-62 showed that 50 per cent of the cases were from Pondicherry town and he rest from the rural areas in various communes.

Rheumatic fever: An analysis of records of two hospitals in Pondicherry region in 1967 showed that 62 cases were admitted for rheumatic fevers alone. The maximum number of cases were admitted in the 5 to 14 age group (58 per cent.) followed by the 15 to 24 age group (27.14 per cent.) and then by the 25 to 44 age group (14.5 per cent.). The cases are reported throughout the year with the maximum admissions in July, April and March.

#### Non-communicable diseases:

So far as non-communicable diseases are concerned, cardiovascular diseases cancer, diabetes, mental illness, accidents and peptic ulcer are said to be the major health problems. It has been suggested that the organisation of mass screening programmes for their early detection as well as the education of the public for undergoing periodic preventive check-ups would be possible solutions to these problems.

Cardiovascular diseases: It has been determined through mass survey and from hospital records that rheumatic heart diseases (40.2 per cent. and 47 per cent.) hypertensive and atherosclerosis/coronary heart disease (35.3 per cent. and 12.5 per cent.) are the leading causes of cardiac morbidity. These two are responsible for 82 per cent. and 50 per cent. of the total cardiac morbidity. Aortic valvular diseases of rheumatic origin (8.9 per cent.), coronary heart diseases (5.6 per cent.), congenital heart diseases (5.2 per cent.) and rheumatic fever (4.7 per cent.) are the other important cardiac diseases.

Cancer: Cancer is a growing problem in the Territory. Cancer of the cheek, lymph-nodes, stomach, tongue and liver were the leading causes for admission. Cancer cheek is commoner among females (2:1).

Diabetes: According to a general survey carried out in 1965 among all the age groups above five years in Pondicherry town, the disease was observed in 0.7 per cent. of the surveyed population. The survey also detected 0.41 per cent. of new cases who were not themselves aware of their disease. The incidence was high in the age group of 30-69 years and in the higher income group. Except the diabetic clinic attached to JIPMER Hospital, there was no other institution to provide specialised treatment to diabetic patients in the Territory.

Mental illness: A mental morbidity survey of the general population of Pondicherry carried out in 1962-63 showed that the total gross neuropsychiatric illness was 9.5 per thousand population. Epilepsy accounted for 2.2, schizophrenia 1.5, alcoholism 3.6 and mental defect 0.7 per 1,000 population. The incidence of mentally defective children or neurologically disabled children was low due to their high early mortality. In an order dated 17 January 1956, the Chief Commissioner designated the 'Procureur de la République' or the 'Juge de Paix' of the Tribunal of first instance in Pondicherry and the Administrator of Karaikal as the authorities empowered to issue reception orders to the Superintendent of Government Mental Hospital, Madras for the admission of mental patients of this Territory, provided such a request was made to them, as the case may be, by the Superintendent of Police of Pondicherry or Karaikal. As for Mahe, its Administrator was authorised to issue such a reception order to the Superintendent, Government Medical Hospital, Kozhikode, at the request of the Officier du Ministére Public of Mahe. These officers were empowered to exercise the function of a Magistrate under the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912, although the Act was actually extended to this Territory only on 1 October 1963.79 Alcoholism: A general health survey of the population in the rural areas, during 1966-67 showed 13 per cent. of the population being addicted to alcohol. But prohibition has never been in force in this Territory and the drinking habit is accepted both socially and culturally.

Peptic ulcer: This is fairly common in Pondicherry region. The peptic ulcer admission rate of 1.8 per cent. is said to be the same as for South India and higher than those reported from other parts of India.80 Manual labourers show a highly significant predilection for peptic ulcer.

## IV. Public hospitals and dispensaries

A brief account of the medical institutions functioning in the Territory is given below:

General Hospital, Pondicherry: The growth of the hospital since 1853 up to 1954 has already been dealt with.

During the Second Plan period the hospital was equipped with the latest and better medical and surgical instruments. As the facilities at the hospital were not found adequate enough to meet the requirements, a new block with a capacity of 126 beds with separate wards for Medicine, Surgery and Paediatrics was constructed at a cost of Rs. 12.30 lakhs and declared open sometime during 1964-65.81 A blood bank was also started in 1964.82 The Diabetic Clinic went into operation in August 1973. The Leprosy Clinic started functioning from 31 August 1965. The new X-Ray plant was provided with an X-Ray block in 1969. The Filaria Clinic was opened in November 1971. A separate clinic for psychiatric patients started functioning in the General Hospital with effect from 18 January 1974. By 1972, the bed strength of the General Hospital increased to 350 of which 80 were meant for females. 83

As the main building of the General Hospital built more than a century ago had become too weak it was decided to demolish the structure and raise instead a five storeyed building. The foundation for the proposed new building was laid on 13 August 1973.

Maternity Hospital, Pondicherry: The facilities at the Maternity Hospital was also found inadequate to meet the growing needs of the population. As part of the first phase, a new maternity block accommodating 40 beds was constructed and occupied during 1964-65. During the Third Plan period, the

hospital was provided with an air-conditioned operation theatre and an X-Ray block. 84 During the IV Plan period, the Maternity Hospital was further expanded with another 40 beds by adding a new floor over the block constructed in 1964. In 1969 a Maternity and Child Health Services Unit was attached to the hospital. Following the introduction of the Post-partum Scheme for Family Planning, an operation theatre and a 16-bed sterilization ward was attached to the Maternity Hospital in 1972. The total bed strength of the hospital had increased to 216 (Obstetrics and Gynaecology-200 and Post-partum Programme-16).

T.B. Sanatorium, Dhanwantarinagar: The foundation stone having been aid by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in 1955, the 110-bed sanatorium built at a cost of Rs. 25 lakhs was declared open in December 1963. Situated within a campus of 32.00 Ha. it is a self-contained institution with all amenities. The conversion of the T.B. Clinic into a Chest Clinic where other diseases like cancer, bronchitil and other chest diseases could also be treated was under active consideration.

Mahatma Gandhi Leprosarium, Dubrayapet: The donation Desbassyns de Richemont, an ex-governor of Pondicherry to the Comité de Bienfaisance of Pondicherry in 1842 led to the establishment of this leprosarium. In 1847 the Comité de Bienfaisance of Pondicherry was allotted, free of cost, a site measuring 8,426 sq. metres for the construction of the asylum. Situated amidst a coconut grove and surrounded by a wall, the leprosarium provided accommodation for about 100 inmates. It was also provided with a kitchen, a store and a chapel. In 1918 the leprosarium appears to have undergone some reorganisation the details of which are not however available. In 1924, the came to be called Hospice Prophylactique when the emphasis shifted from segregation of lepers to their treatment. The Sanatorium functioned independently of the General Hospital. The Hospice Prophylactique was provided with 120 beds but total admission always exceeded by 40 to 50 patients. Cases from outside the territory also used to be admitted here.85 There were two separate sections, one for males and another for females. On 2 October 1975. the institution was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi Government Leprosarium.

General Hospital, Karaikal: What began as a Dispensaire in 1855 grew into a 'Centre Médical' with a maternity wing attached to it. After merger, a dental section and an ophthalmic section were opened in the hospital. In due course, the hospital came to be equipped with a pathological aboratory, a building for the V.D. Clinic, a 25-bed isolation ward and an

X-Ray Unit. The hospital complex was further expanded under the III Plan with the construction of nurses' quarters, separate male and female wards, a surgical ward, a kitchen block, a pharmacy, an out-patient department, operation theatre, etc. A blood bank was opened on 6 September 1972.

Maternity Wing, Karaikal: The maternity wing which came to be attached to Karaikal 'Centre Médical' in 1935 saw little progress thereafter. The bed strength remained static at 60 between 1959 and 1967. It was strengthened further with an additional 35-bed block in 1967.

General Hospital, Mahe: The 'Centre Médical' in Mahe saw several improvements after merger. Under the II Plan, a general ward and a T.B. ward of 12 beds each and an X-Ray block were added to the hospital. A 10-bed children's ward started functioning from June 1970. A 10-bed surgical ward was opened in 1970. The Mahe General Hospital was attached with Maternity, Paediatric and T.B. wards in 1969-70. As a result of all the improvements carried out the bed strength stood increased to 100.

General Hospital, Yanum: This hospital which had 19 beds in all at the time of merger was provided with an annexe for the staff and an isolation ward and operation theatre. A 12-bed maternity block was opened on 17 September 1962. The hospital was provided with X-Ray facilities in 1972. The bed strength had since then increased to 40.

JIPMER Hospital, Dhanwantarinagar: The hospital which is attached to the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research is run and maintained by the Ministry of Health, Government of India Equipped with 624 beds, the hospital became operative in April 1966. There are also special air-conditioned as well as A and B class wards accounting for an additional strength of 44 beds. In-p atient and out-patient treatment is available in the branches of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, E.N.T., Opthamology, Orthopaedic surgery, Tuberculosis, Dentistry, Psychiatry, V.D. and Dermatology, Radio Diagnosis, Cobalt, Radium and Caesium Therapy, Cardiology and Cardio Surgery.

The Central Resuscitation Unit and the Tetanus Resuscitation Unit were commissioned in 1971. Facilities for radium treatment of cancer was also added the same year. The hospital was provided with a modern respiratory equipment besides radium and caesium needles and tubes. A cobalt-60 equipment donated under the Colombo Plan was fitted in 1971 with a new source of three thousand curies strength fabricated indigenously by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

The following are the special evening clinics conducted on specified days:

- 1. Diabetic clinic
- 2. Polio clinic
- 3. E.N.T. clinic
- 4. Thoracic clinic
- 5. Respiratory clinic

- 6. Club-Foot clinic
- 7. Well-Baby clinic
- 8. Cardiac clinic
- 9. Leprosy clinic

Besides those mentioned above, follow-up clinics such as child guidance clinic, hand clinic, etc. were started in 1971. The plastic surgery department, Post-Partum Unit and the Urban Family Planning Centre were started in 1973. Facilities are also available to carry out advanced renal and cardiac surgery. The mechanised laundry, central sterilisation, the scientific maintenance of medical records, the central piped system of oxygen and suction to every bed providing quick service in case of emergency are some of the special features of this hospital. Blood transfusion services are also available in the hospital. The Blood Bank Society started in September 1970 is a registered body which encourages the public to resort to voluntary blood donation. It maintains a panel of voluntary blood donors.

Primary Health Centres: All the Primary Health Centres in the Territory were established only after merger. The Government of India in 1957 sanctioned the establishment of three centres in Pondicherry and one in Karaikal. Subsequently however the Government of India, sanctioned as many as 11 Centres for the Territory. There were in all 12 Primary Health Centres in the Territory. Details of all Primary Health Centres are furnished below:

_	Primary Health Centres		 No. of ub-centres attached	No. of medical depots attached	No. of villages benefited	Population covered
	(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Mannadipattu	(1962)	 3	<del></del>	20	14,011
2.	Mettuppalaiyam	(1962)	 3		26	32,160
3.	Tavalakuppam	(1962)	 3	_	13	11,500
4.	Katterikuppam	(1962)	 3	_	12	10,254
5.	Kirumambakkam	(1963)	 3		25	14,015

	(1)			(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
6.	Kalapet	(1963)		3	1	20	22,531
7.	Karkilambakkam	(1964)		3	1	12	10,254
8.	Varachchakudi	(1964)		2	_	11	6,125
9.	Nedungadu	(1965)		3	_	28	9,435
10.	Tirunallar	(1965)		3		22	20,445
11.	Vilidiyur	(1965)		2		13	5,480

All these Primary Health Centres manned by a male and a lady doctor are provided with vehicles, microscopes, oxygen therapy facilities and refrigerators. They are not only located in government buildings but also are provided with a six-bed in-patient ward each. Treatment in specialities such as tuberculosis, E.N.T. and paediatrics to patients attending the Primary Health Centres located in Pondicherry region is provided through Specialists attached to the General Hospital, Pondicherry who visit the Primary Health Centres once a week. 86

The Ramanathapuram Primary Health Centre, one of the eleven sanctioned in 1958 was transferred to the control of JIPMER in 1965. The Primary Health Centre at Mannadipattu although built originally under the Community Development Programme was handed over to the Medical Services in February 1962.

Sub-Centres: As on 31 December 1972, there were 31 Sub-Centres in the Territory attached to the Primary Health Centres. The list of Sub-Centres and the names of Primary Health Centres to which they are attached are given below:

Sub-	Sub-Centres (1)		rimary Health Centres to which attached (2)
Pond	licherry region :		
1. 2. 3.	Kanakachettikulam Pillaichavadi Laspettai	}	Kalapet
4. 5. 6.	Kilur Aranganur Manaveli	}	Karkilambakkam

	(1)		(2)
7. 8. 9.	Suttukanni Sellippattu Kakkalippattu	}	Katterikuppam
10. 11. 12.	Manappattu Koralimedu Manamedu	}	Kirumambakkam
13. 14. 15.	Tiruvandarkovil Kalitirtakuppam Sanyasikuppam	}	Mannadipattu
16. 17. 18.	Kadirkamam Saram Kusappalaiyam		Mettuppalaiyam
19. 20. 21.	Thimmanayakenpalayam Andiarpalaiyam Nallavadu	}	Tavalakuppam
Karai	kal region :		
22. 23. 24. 25.	Mel Kasakkudi Vadamattam Kulakudy Muppattankudi		Nedungadu
26. 27.	Karkkankudi Pettai	)	Tirunallar
28. 29.	Rayampalaiyam Tiruvettakudi	)	Varachchakudi
30. 31.	Akkaravattam Manapet	)	Vilidiyur

In 1956 a 'Dépôt Médical' was opened at Thimmanayakenpalayam in the building provided by a local philanthropist. This was subsequently converted into a Sub-Centre and attached to the Tavalakuppam Primary Health Centre.

Dispensaries: There were as on 31 December 1972 twentyone dispensaries in the Territory,-18 of them rural dispensaries and three urban dispensaries. Details of all dispensaries in the Territory are furnished below:

	Dispensaries			lo. of beds ailable	No. of villages benefited	Population served
Pondich	nerry Region:					
1.	Ariyankuppam	(1957)		4	7	16,931
2.	Bahur	(1957)	••	5	11	11,637
3.	Odiansalai (Jean Mer	moz)	•••	_	Urban	12,112
4.	Karaiyamputtur	(1964)			2	3,764
5.	Madukkarai	(1958)	A	2	7	4,739
6.	Mudaliyarpettai	AR E		_	18	35,055
<b>7</b> .	Muttiyalupettai	(1956)		_	20	25,000
8.	Nettappakkam	(1953)		5	13	9,522
9.	Reddiyarpalaiyam	(1936)	11.	5	21	20,684
10.	Sorappattu	(1968)		6	8	1,673
11.	Tirubhuvanai	(1940)		4	6	12,634
12.	Tirukkanur	ilensin (e		_	_	1,707
13.	Villiyanur	(1952)	नयने	4	28	26,279
Karaika	al Region :					
14.	Ambagarattur	(1967)		_	3	3,697
15.	Kottuchcheri	(1957)		4	8	5,200
16.	Nallambal			2	10	8,000
17.	Nallattur	(1970)	• •	_	5	970
18.	Niravi	(1957)		4	12	6,307
19.	T.R. Pattinam	(1956)		10	13	12,360
Mahe I	Region :					
20.	Pallur		• •	22	4	9,850
21.	Pandakkal				1	3,855

In 1956, a Maternity Centre was opened at Puranasingapalayam in a building offered by the villagers.

To begin with, Ambagarattur and Pandakkal were provided with only a Dépôt Médical. They were upgraded into dispensaries in June 1967. Apart from these two dispensaries and those at Nallattur and Sorappattu all the other dispensaries were opened prior to merger. The Nallattur Dispensary started functioning in 1967 in a rented building.

As part of the Pallur Dispensary, a 20-bed maternity ward was opened in December 1970 to cope up with the large number of maternity cases. Thus it could accommodate in all only 22 patients. In order to cope up with the rush for admissions, a proposal to add a 25-bed complex to the dispensary was under consideration.

Medical Depots: As on 31 December 1972, there were six Medical Depots in the Territory located at (1) Uruvaiyar, (2) Sultanpettai, (3) Alankuppam, (4) Embalam in Pondicherry and (5) Karaikalmedu and Karaikovilpattu in Karaikal region. The Uruvaiyar and Sultanpettai Depots are attached to the Villiyanur Dispensary. The Alankuppam Medical Depot is attached to the Kalapet Primary Health Centre.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres: The three Maternity and Child Welfare Centres sponsored by the Government of India were established so as to form part of the Reddiyarpalaiyam and Nettappakkam Dispensaries in Pondicherry region and the Nedungadu Primary Health Centre in Karaika region.

# V. Private hospitals and dispensaries

Clinique St. Joseph: In 1855, only two years after the opening of the new Hôpital Colonial, the sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph de Cluny were called in to assist in running the hospital. They worked there until their services were dispensed with during the laicisation. They were reinstated in 1923 but left on New Year's Day 1961, to set up their own Maternity Clinic and Dispensary. Later a Medical Block and a Creche were added. The maternity and medical wards consist of more than 100 beds.

In 1898 two sisters of this Congregation went to work in the Leprosarium at the request of the administration. Although they withdrew from there at the time of the laicisation in 1904, they returned in August 1936 and continued to work there.

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In 1886 the sisters of this Congregation were called in to join the hospital in Karaikal. They withdrew from there in 1905 but were recalled in 1927. In 1950 two more sisters were called in to work in the Maternity Wing where they continued to work.

St. Roch's Dispensary in Karaikal was started by the sisters of this Congregation in August 1972. A 20-bed ward is attached to this dispensary.

Sisters of Missions Etrangères: The sisters of Missions Etrangères who came to work in Pondicherry in 1945 attached themselves to Dispensaire Jean Mermoz in January 1953. In 1960 they started a Mobile Domiciliary Leprosy Treatment Unit to serve the leprosy patients in villages. The Unit gradually expanded with the setting up of a Sub-Centre at Papanchavadi village covering in all 3,60,175 people, in 293 villages (109 in Pondicherry and 184 in Tamil Nadu). The sisters also maintain a laboratory and a small cottage hospital at Ravuttankuppam for the short stay of leprosy patients. Those who need surgical treatment are referred to hospitals. The leprosy relief work is financed and supported, among others, by the Damien Foundation in Brussels and Lepre Organisation in Europe and the Government of France.

Other Institutions: Volontariat'—a voluntary organisation in Pondicherry runs a dispensary at the Community Centre, Uppalam near Pondicherry. The Ananda Ashram runs a free clinic and the Vyoma Ashram in Villiyanur runs a Siddha Dispensary for the benefit of villagers.

## VI. Research Centres

The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research is the foremost institution in the Territory promoting research in different branches of medical science, as part of its curricular activities.

The institute undertook a study on the role of antropoids in the transmission of leprosy in 1969.87 The project was financed out of P.L.480 funds.

The Asian Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation Research Forum is another research body registered on 30 March 1971. The Society's objective is to stimulate interest in prophylactic and therapeutic aspects of anaesthesiology and resuscitation and to encourage study and research on these subjects. The 'Asian Archives of Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation' is a research journal published by this Forum.

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### CHAPTER-XVII

## OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

### I. Labour Welfare

## Before merger:

The factory type of industries, both large and small, came to be started in Pondicherry only after the establishments were reoccupied by the French in 1816, providing more and more employment opportunities for the large number of weavers who led a precarious life with the decline of the export trade of cloth. The local working population which consisted mostly of weavers, dyers and artisans enlisted themselves as factory hands. As most of the industrial units were started in the vicinity of Pondicherry town, large scale migration of rural people to the town followed. They were not only uneducated and unorganised but were not also conscious of their own rights. Every kind of trade unionism was strictly prohibited by law. The workers were therefore left with little bargaining power. However from time to time they resorted to some militant forms of agitation whenever they felt aggrieved by managerial action. As early as in May 1908, some workers in one section of Rodier Mill struck work demanding an increase of half an anna in their daily wages. The mill which had to be closed down for ten or eleven days was reopened only after the management agreed to the demands of the workers.1 This must have been a very rare event in those days.

As an aftermath of World War I and the drought of 1916 the people had to face severe famine conditions. Rodier Mill arranged to sell rice at eight measures per rupee to its employees, while only five litres were available in the open market. Workers were also supplied free cloth. The demand for an increase in wages was not however accepted by the management on the plea that even if prices fell in future the workers would still claim the same level of wages.<sup>2</sup> In 1910, Rodier Mill agreed to a 20 per cent. increase in wages. The demands of workers of Savana were met only partly leading to a mild stir, followed by the arrest of some workers.<sup>3</sup> Loyal' workers reported for work under police protection. About the same time Soudjanarandjani', a local journal carried a letter to the editor calling upon

workers to organise themselves into trade unions, and demanding a reduction in working hours besides other facilities enjoyed by their counterparts in France. The letter drew pointed attention to the fact that workers in Bombay and Madras were working only for 10 hours, while those in Pondicherry had to work for as many as eleven hours a day and 67 1/2 hours a week. This letter was a pointer to a new awakening among the public.4

A few months later, the workers of Rodier Mill put forward a demand for increased wages-at least on par with those paid to workers in Madras and Madurai. As the management refused to accede to the workers' demand they resorted to a strike. After three days the strike fizzled out. The attitude of the administration and Mayor Nandagobalou Chettiar was characterised as unsympathetic towards the working class.5

The years 1924-25 were very bad years. In February 1924 Rodier Mill declared a lock-out, throwing hundreds out of job. After a few months the lock-out was lifted and the management agreed to take in only those who were prepared to submit to the new regulations of the mill. Although all workers reported for duty, the management is understood to have refused to take back a few workers. The workers expressed their solidarity for those victimised by contributing some money for their maintenance. In August the management declared another lock-out and shortly after announced the dismissal of a large number of workers. Mudaliyarpettai Mill (Gaebelé Mill) also seems to have followed suit. In the meanwhile the distribution of rice was also abruptly stopped. The workers therefore clamoured for the intervention of the government. Shortly after, Rodiers agreed to arrange for fortnightly distribution of rice but Gaebelé Mill did not, leaving hundreds of its workers in the lurch. In Savana, work was carried on with frequent interruptions. The lock-out in Rodier was lifted on 2 March 1925. The Mudaliyarpettai Mill seems to have resumed work only in April 1926.

From now on till about the year 1931 there prevailed a simmering current of discontent underneath the apparent calmness. As workers were unorganised and most of them uneducated, they had to submit meekly to their miserable condition. They worked for 12 hours or more for wages ranging from 12 annas to 14 annas per day. They lived under constant threat of dismissal for any action not to the liking of the management. Surprisingly the lot of the working class had not till then attracted the attention or sympathy

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of political factions, as politicians themselves were often in sympathy with the mill management. But the victories won by workers in France and Italy spurred the workers in Pondicherry to clamour for similar rights. There was a growing realisation of the disadvantage of disunity amongst them. A new cadre of labour leaders was slowly in the making. They came forward to champion the cause of the working class. Altogether this was a period of great ferment

Following the growing economic crisis throughout the world in the thirties, and the resultant imposition of customs barriers, cut-throat competition, decline of overseas market for textile products, and the devaluation of the franc, the demand for cotton piece goods of Pondicherry origin dwindled and the manufacturing units had perforce to cut down their production. This led to large scale retrenchment of workers. From now on, one witnesses sporadic incidents of workers resorting to stay-ins and tools-down strikes to press their demands for increased wages, etc. In March 1931, workers in the Weaving Department of Savana went on strike in protest against a reduction in their wages.

A new turn in the working class movement was evident from now on. At the initiative of Selvaradjalu Chettiar and his followers a labour conference was held at Odiansalai maidan. The Conference was addressed, among others, by Dr. P. Subbarayan and Kanaga Sankara Kannappan. About the same time the people of Pondicherry came under the impact of the Civil Disobedience Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930. The very next year a group of youngsters joined together and held a Youth Conference. The French India Youth Association came to be formed and a Second Conference was held the next year. As part of their other activities, they organised libraries and night schools.

The members of the Harijana Seva Sangham which was organised in 1933 went and worked among factory workers - mostly harijans. Those prominent among them were S.R. Subramanian, R.L. Purushothama Reddiar, Ansari Doraisamy, Ku. Sivapragasam, Annoussamy, K. Sundararaj and V. Subbiah. Through their speeches and writings they created an awareness of the miserable conditions of the working class and urged upon the administration to intervene on behalf of the workers and redeem them from their sad plight. The managements argued that because of the world-wide depression there was little demand

for their products and hence they had been forced to cut down production. In that process, they said, they were left with no other alternative than to retrench surplus labourers. Statements and counter statements followed. Workers soon relaised that their strength lay in their unity. The managements showed scant respect to the various suggestions of the labour leaders touching on labour welfare. The administration also failed to take serious notice of the condition of workers in the three mills.7

The workers met secretly and decided to organise a labour union and accordingly set up various committees. These committees functioned secretly and took important decisions. In January 1935, the workers went on strike demanding a reduction of working hours and the right of collective bargaining. The management yielded to the demands of the labourers but suspended 100 workers. The workers went on strike again protesting against the action of the management. This strike was also a success.

In June 1936 the workers declared a general strike and put forward a charter of five demands-viz. eight hours work, right of collective bargaining, increase in wages, holidays and the right to form labour unions. The government agreed to bring forward legislation stipulating the hours of work, ensuring the right of collective bargaining\* and providing for increase in wages and holidays. The administration however refused to accede to the demand of the workers to form trade unions. In June the same year 'Front Populaire consisting of Socialists and Radical Socialists and the Communists formed a coalition government in France. This gave rise to great expectations among the working class in Pondicherry. They believed that the coalition government

<sup>\*</sup> A collective agreement is an agreement between a single employer or an association of employers on the one hand and a labour union or labour unions on the other. "Foreign treatment of the collective bargaining agreement varies in the extent of recognition, but with the exception of England, where the agreement is not given legal effect at all, the law intervenes in some way or other to enforce the terms of the agreement. In Denmark, Finland, Italy and Queensland, violation of the terms of a collective bargaining agreement is declared to constitute a crime, and in some countries individual agreements contrary to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement are void. Likewise, in France and Sweden, collective bargaining agreements are given legal effect." (Teller: 'On Labour Disputes and Collective Bargaining'.)

in France run by leaders who championed the cause of the workers would fulfil all their demands and aspirations. The labourers went on strike again in the last week of July 1936 to achieve their right to form trade unions. The atmosphere around the mills grew very tense. Governor Solomiac took hasty action and gave shooting orders to the French police. The police carried out the Governor's order and twelve labourers lost their lives in the tragedy of 30 July 1936.

Reverberations of this tragedy were heard in the Chambre de Députés in Paris. The Minister for Colonies speaking in the Chambre on 15 December 1936 confessed: "I saw in the Office of the Council of Ministers a two-year old document on labour legislation. The word 'premature' was superscribed on it. If only these measures had been brought forward earlier, these unhappy events might not have occurred." The coalition government in France ordered an immediate enquiry and took action against the Governor of French India. Sénateur Justin Godart came to Pondicherry as a special delegate of the President of the Republic of France to study the problems of workers in French India. He addressed the Conseil Général on 21 November 1936 and assured them that he would complete his task very soon and submit a report to the French Government. He acknowledged that the working conditions of Indian workers were far from satisfactory and assured that justice would be rendered to them.

On his recommendation the décret of 6 April 1937 was passed. The measure brought about many sweeping changes in the labour law. Prohibition of child labour, restriction of working hours, recognition of labour unions, maternity benefits for women labour and weekly paid holiday were some of the progressive features of this law. The Rodier Mill Workers' Union (Syndicat des Ouvriers de l'Usine Rodier) was formed on 23 June 1937 in accordance with the above décret under the leadership of K. Sundararaj. A. Antoine was its General Secretary and M. Nandagopal its treasurer. Vallabadas Lehru became the leader of the workers in Savana Mill. A. Rayappan became the leader of the Enni Mill workers. All of them acknowledged the services rendered by V. Subbiah and Doraisamy for the working class movement. This décret, hailed as the Workers' Charter, regulated the mode of payment of wages, prohibited the employment of children below 14 years in mills and workshops and stipulated that boys below 18 years old should be employed only on production of a fitness certificate. The number of working hours was reduced to nine per day

till the end of the year and reduced further to eight hours per day with effect from 1 January 1938. Night shift work between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. was prohibited in factories and workshops. The new law further stipulated that women and boys below 18 years should not be employed in any kind of work between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. The workers came to enjoy a weekly holiday. This décret also contained special provisions regarding maternity benefits.

The décret of 6 April 1937 laid down various rules relating to hygiene, lighting, ventilation and safety measures to be observed in industrial establishments. Above all this law recognised for the first time the registration of labour unions and provided for a system of conciliation and arbitration based on French law. Whenever conciliation did not succeed, parties to the dispute were called upon to name an arbitrator each. If the arbitrators so chosen failed to reach any agreement, new arbitrators could be chosen and the arbitration proceedings to be recorded in writing were to be countersigned by the parties. The measure was far more progressive in character than analogous measures in other countries in the East and had a salutary effect on the working class. Although the decree of 1937 was progressive enough, the workers were by and large in straightened circumstances. They lived in a state of uncertainty because of the indifference shown by the administration which often acted in complicity with the management.

The management of Enni Mill in Mudaliyarpettai in the meanwhile refused to recognise the Union founded by its workers who resorted to a stay-in-strike which continued for nearly five months. The workers of the Savana and Rodier Mills expressed their solidarity with the striking workers by going to their aid. In December 1937, Harold Butler of the International Labour Organisation came to Pondicherry. He was received at Pondicherry by a surging mass of workers waving the red flag. The workers dispute with the Enni Mill was resolved through Butler's intervention and the mill resumed work.

The arrival of Bonvin as Governor in September 1938 was well received by the working classes. He brought to an end the political gangsterism and paved the way for the return of those who had fled the region for fear of attack. Peace returned to Pondicherry. But soon after came the news of World War II and the fall of France. Till now goods manufactured in the

mills were exported to the French colonies like Indo-China, Madagascar, Réunion etc., where the goods were exempted from the levy of customs duty. The products could not be marketed anywhere in India because of the heavy customs duties levied on them. With the outbreak of World War II, the lines of communication with the outside world were cut off and export of cloth and yarn came to a halt. However, an agreement was reached between the French and the British Governments on customs regulations. The French territory was thus brought within the control of the British Customs Regulations. As a result, the products of Pondicherry mills found a vast market at their disposal. The textile industry of Pondicherry gathered a lot of strength. The mills were asked to supply kits for the military and other cotton made items required for war. These factors helped to increase production.

In the meanwhile the provisions of the décret of 1937 came to be modified to meet war-time exigencies. The décret of 12 September 1939 authorised the increase in the working hours from 48 to 54 per week presumably to meet the increased demands of war. The Collective Agreement entered into in 1943 provided for burial and funeral expenses of workers.

Soon after World War II, the interim government in France withdrew all emergency measures imposed during the war. In Pondicherry, the National Democratic Front which represented various shades of political views was formed. In the municipal elections held on 23 June 1946 the National Democratic Front was returned with an overwhelming majority. The National Democratic Front captured the Representative Assembly in the elections held on 15 December 1946.

The décret of 23 August 1946 regarding fixation of salaries was promulgated in Pondicherry the same day by an arreté of 23 August 1946. The order stipulated that wages of workers in industrial establishments, both private as well as public, should not be less than the minimum fixed by the adminiconsultation paritaire des stration in with the Commission Commission paritaire des salaires headed by the Chief of the establishments consisted of the Labour Inspector and an equal number of members representing the management and the workers. Following its promulgation, the then administration in consultation with the Commission paritaire des salaires constituted under the provisions of the above said décret, fixed the minimum wages for

various categories of skilled workers, coolies, etc. working in the textile mills in Pondicherry. Apart from this, the workers were also entitled to dearness allowance to be calculated at the following rates with the base fixed at 100 points:

- 3 paise per point from 101 to 200.
- 12 paise per point from 201 to 225.
- 11 paise per point above 226.9

On 9 September 1946 the labour unions and the managements gave their consent to a new Collective Agreement reached through the good offices of Governor Baron. Article 12 of the agreement confirmed the system of pension and provided for the payment of pension at a higher rate. As per clause 2 of the agreement it was to remain in force for a period of one year in the first instance but could be renewed thereafter from year to year by tacit consent, subject however to renunciation thereof by either of the party to the agreement by issuing a notice in the prescribed manner. This notice of renunciation had to be given three months before the expiry of the original period or the period of renewal as the case may be, and must specify the points in regard to which the renunciation is effected. Pension payments continued to be made under the new agreement with a slight modification.

Coming down to the post-war period, except during 1951–1953 when due to several causes mills could not make much profit, all of them functioned throughout. There was a stoppage of work at the end of September 1952. The workers gained one month's bonus pay payable at the end of April 1953. All the three mills paid the bonus. There was another work stoppage in Rodier Mill from 2 December 1952 on the issue of bonus. This lasted till 12 February 1953. Savana and Bharathi Mills, resorted to retrenchments, first in April 1953 and again in July and August 1953. Rodier first attempted to increase the work load of workers and then effected retrenchments in April 1954.

In the meanwhile independent India had introduced a series of measures to improve the conditions of workers in India. This gave rise to a clamour for similar measures in French-India as well. The administration therefore came up with a series of measures. The arrêté of 24 September 1952 provided for the creation of a fund for the workers of the textile mills in Pondicherry (subsequently modified by the arrêté of 18 April 1953) and the arrêté of 26 September sought to regulate the use of the relief funds during lock-outs

(subsequently modified by the arrêté of 11 May 1964). The Labour Code of 15 December 1952, was yet another landmark in the history of labour legislation. This was a very comprehensive measure which in India was sought to be covered by several Acts of Parliament. Article 91 of the Labour Code stipulated that under similar conditions, as regards works, skill and output, the same wage shall be payable to all workers, irrespective of their origin, sex, age and status. The provision of 40-hour work per week contained in article 112 remained a dead letter. The object of article 113 was to exclude women workers from night shifts. But the situation in Pondicherry was peculiar. Nearly 50 per cent. of the workers were women and they had been working in the mills for several years. Hence in actual practice article 113 also remained a dead letter. The Code gave statutory sanction to articles 68-72 and validity to collective conventions of the type entered into in 1946.

The décret of 28 January 1954 extended to the French overseas territories the provisions of the International Convention, regarding employment of women before and after confinement (article 3), weekly holidays in industrial establishments (article 14), age of children for admission into non-industrial establishments (article 33), the procedure for fixing minimum wages (article 26), trade union rights (article 27) and the minimum wage for engagement of children in industrial establishments (article 5) 10

The arrêté of 1 May 1954 provided for the setting up of a Consultative Committee on Labour in Pondicherry. The arrêté of 20 May 1954 provided for the creation of Labour Courts in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. The arrêté of 13 June 1954 provided for the fixation of dearness allowance for the workers in the textile mills, Pondicherry. The arrêté of 17 June 1954 determined the functions of the Labour Court and provided for avoiding delay in the disposal of cases before the Labour Court. The arrêté of 13 July 1954 prescribed the rules for the grant of allowance on 1 May. Thus, a spate of measures was introduced in the territory in quick succession, But even before many of these measures could be brought into force, French rule came to an end in Pondicherry.

## After merger:

The principal type of cloth manufactured by these mills was called shandorah— a heavily indigo-dyed cloth which had a preferential and protected market in the French overseas territories. With such a protected market, all the three mills were doing flourishing business. But, de facto merger brought this state of affairs to an end. The French Government was not prepared to allow the textile industry of Pondicherry to have the benefit of a

protected market in their overseas colonies for an indefinite period of time. 11 As per article 18 of the Indo-French Agreement leading to the transfer of power, the French Government agreed to maintain to the benefit of these mills, for a period of six months with allocation of foreign currency and under the same conditions as existed prior to defacto transfer, entry into the French Union of the goods produced by the said mills. Under this clause, the mills enjoyed this benefit only upto 3 April 1955. Efforts to get the period of concession extended for another six months did not succeed. However in order to check the closure of mills and ensure maintenance of production as well as employment, the Government of India came up with several measures to help the industry. The managements sought to tide over the crisis by increasing the work load of workers on the one hand and by resorting to drastic retrenchment on the other. The labour unions opposed these measures, leading ultimately to the closure of all mills on 1 May 1955.

While the mills, especially Savana and Bharathi, were considerably agitated their future, the workers demanded immediate relief and improvement in their working conditions. The workers put forth their demands, first through a Memorandum dated 27 November 1954 and later repeated them in subsequent memoranda.12 The mills which contended that work loads were too low insisted that unless there was a revision of these work loads they would not be in a position to compete with the mills in the rest of India. On the other hand, the labour asked for a reduction of the work loads saying that they were too heavy. Among other points of differences, the question of bonus for the year 1953 and 1954 and the scheme of pension for workers defied solution. It may be recalled here that in September 1954, the management of the Rodier Mill had given notice to its labour union renouncing among other things, the pension scheme set out in article 12 of the Collective Agreement. administration made several attempts to bring about reconciliation between the managements and the workers but without success.13 was finally referred to an Arbitration Committee headed by B.R. Chakravarthi, a retired District and Sessions Judge of Madras on 24 August 1955 with the stipulation to give its award on the points of dispute. These issues related to wages, dearness allowance, classification of workers, standardisation of occupations, work loads, leave and holidays with pay, maternity benefit, recruitment, promotion, confirmation, introduction of standing orders, shift working, overtime, retrenchment and involuntary unemployment compensation, incentive allowance, bonus, welfare activities, reinstatement of discharged employees, exclusion of women

from night shifts, clerical workers' classification etc., pension and provident fund, rationalisation and examination of the existing collective agreements and the provisions of the Labour Code of 1952. In the meanwhile the Savana Mill and the Bharathi Mill had practically closed down and only the Rodier Mill continued to work. The Tribunal gave its interim award which facilitated the re-opening of mills on 20 September, 1955. Nearly 4,000 workers who were rendered idle by the closure of these two mills were benefited by this award. Pending final adjudication, the management of the Bharathi Mill was required to pay the workers at the rate of Rs. 3 per weaver on two looms on average efficiency and at the rate of one weaver for six automatic looms. 14

The Committee, having dealt with all outstanding disputes, gave its final award on 24 November 1955 announcing a new wage structure for the textile workers. The minimum basic wages of unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and special grade workers were raised. The Tribunal further awarded that for every 10 per cent. dividend or part thereof declared by a mill on paid-up capital, one month's basic wages should be given as bonus for each worker and clerk. If however, in any year no dividend was declared, the employees would have a claim for 25 per cent, of the net profit to be distributed as bonus. The Tribunal felt that it would not be feasible to continue the system of pension in regard to persons who were to retire in future. But as an alternative the Tribunal directed that from 1 November 1956, all the three mills ought to bring into force a scheme of Contributory Provident Fund. The services of those who worked between 1936 and 1950 were to be recognised by a form of gratuity, the minimum of which was fixed at Rs. 500. In the matter of welfare and safety measures the managements were directed to follow the provisions of the Indian Factories Act. The Tribunal also gave its award on the question of leave and holidays. Pregnant women were conferred the benefit of seven weeks of maternity leave to be availed of by them according to their convenience partly before and partly after delivery with one rupee per day during the period of leave as maternity allowance. The Tribunal's award also provided for compensation to be paid to workers during lay-offs. 15 The Committee could not, however, deal with the case of pension of those who had already retired as they were not duly represented before the Committee.

On 23 November 1955 about 400 retired pensioners started a peaceful agitation before the mills keeping the question of pension open. It must be noted that the pension scheme for mill workers was in force since 1936.

The press note issued by the administration on the occasion stated that although the question of pension was one of the issues referred to the Arbitration Committee it could not be taken up by the Committee as representatives of the workers who appeared before the Committee said that they did not represent the pensioners but only those actually working in the mills. The managements did not appear to have raised any objection.

The press note continued as follows: "The three-day talks held at the instance of the State Government followed the refusal of the managements to pay pensions which fell due this month. The managements put up notices announcing that no pensions would be paid in November 1955. This was strongly protested against by the pensioners who threatened to resort to hunger strike on the issue."

"At the talks held with the Government during November 18,19. 20 the pensioners insisted that immediate payment should be made of the pensions which fell due in November as that would also create the necessary atmosphere for a settlement. On the other hand the managements maintained that they had already denounced last year itself the pensions clause in the Collective Convention entered into between the managements and the workers in the past. Even after that the managements said, they were continuing payment of pensions only as a matter of grace in the hope that the Arbitration Committee would give its award on the issue. They also stated categorically at the talks that no payment of pension would be made in future unless a satisfactory solution of the question was first arrived at."

"The Government of Pondicherry suggested at the talks-that the pensions due in November 1955 be paid immediately: that the two parties to the dispute hold talks immediately thereafter with a view to arriving at a settlement; within seven days the parties might decide upon a machinery to settle the issue or failing that to approach the Government for the appointment of a tribunal to decide the issue; and that such a tribunal be constituted and asked to give its decision within six weeks."

"While the pensioners agreed to these suggestions, the managements insisted that a settlement should be arrived at before any payments could be made."

"The Government regret that in these circumstances the conciliatory talks had to be temporarily suspended without any settlement being reached." 16 The managements finally relented and agreed to pay pensions due for the month of October and the first half of November.

A new Arbitration Committee consisting of the Chairman of the 1955 Committee, N.M. Mukkerji and André Carnot as members was constituted in January 1956 to decide the question of pension to retired mill workers. 17 This question was discussed threadbare by the Committee in consultation with the representatives both of the labour and the managements. Having considered the miserable condition to which the retired workers would be subjected to if the pension were stopped by the managements and also taking into consideration the heavy financial liability of the managements, the Committee in their award (21 February 1956) recommended pension for 1,200 workers of three textile mills at reduced rates. 18 The award came into force with effect from 1 December 1955 from which date, payments at reduced rates were made. According to the award, payments made prior to December 1955, were not to be disturbed.

The Fourth Labour Conference held in Pondicherry under the auspices of the Pondicherry State Trade Union Council on 5 February 1956 called for the extension of some of the Indian labour laws such as the Shop Assistants Act and the Employees' State Insurance Scheme to Pondicherry 'without prejudice to the existing rights and privileges of workers'.19 In another dispute between the management and the workers of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, A. Thamby, Judge of the Pondicherry Superior Tribunal of Appeals, submitted an award in September 1956. According to his award all labourers whose service was equal to or more than three years were to be confirmed.20 Personnel taken on trial and who had worked for more than six months were also to be confirmed. Workers were to be given increments once in three years and this rate was fixed by the management in consultation with the Labour Inspector and in conformity with the social laws.21

The Labour Consultative Committee which met on 18 October 1956 to consider the dispute of Rodier Mill where 4,000 workers had been on strike since 8 October in protest against the introduction of the four looms system, decided to leave the four looms issue to an expert committee.<sup>22</sup> By an order issued on 7 November 1956 the administration fixed the working hours for workers in all the textile mills in the Territory at 48 hours per week. <sup>23</sup> The next four years were relatively calm and passed off peacefully.

In July 1961, a single-member Tribunal with Ramassamy Gounder was set up to resolve the problems relating to the implementation of the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Cotton Textile Industry. 24 The Tribunal was required to grant wage increases in accordance with the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for the Cotton Textile Industry, to detail the process by which the increase should be given; to make suitable amendments to the existing standing orders including the fixation of the superannuation age for workers; to settle matters relating to the Provident Fund accounts of the workers who would be retired on superannuation and to award a new bonus formula.

The Tribunal's Award was announced on 3 November 1961. Nearly 8,000 workers of the three Pondicherry textile mills benefited by this award. Each worker got Rs. 6 more in his basic wages with retrospective effect from January 1960 and a further increase of Rs. 2 from January 1962. In addition to wage increase, it was recommended that a fixed dearness allowance of Rs. 45 up to 340 points and 23 np. per point thereafter as per the Madras cost of living index should be paid to the workers with effect from November 1, 1961. The Tribunal fixed the age of superannuation as sixty. The management and workers accepted the Tribunal's suggestions to arrive at a mutual agreement on some other points of dispute, including the fixation of pay for the clerical staff as per the Wage Board recommendations, with an additional benefit of one increment, 25

The New Horizon Sugar Mills voluntarily applied to their employees with effect from July 1961 the scales of pay as recommended by the Central Wage Board for Sugar Industry.

The Working Committee of the Indian National Trade Union Congress passed a resolution in September 1962 calling for the extension of the Central Labour Laws to the Territory. In December the Working Committee of the Tamil Nadu I.N.T.U.C. renewed the appeal at its Madurai Session. A delegation of the Pondicherry Textile Trade Unions met Prime Minister Nehru at Raj Nivas on 17 June 1963 and requested the extension of the Industrial Disputes Act and other Labour Acts to the Union Territory. Soon after i.e. with effect from 1 October 1963, most of the Indian labour laws were extended to this Territory under the Pondicherry (Laws) Regulation, 1963 together with other Indian laws. With this, the Territory came to be governed almost entirely by Indian labour laws.

There was a major strike in the Engineering Sections of the Rodier and Bharathi Mills in the first week of June 1963. It was however withdrawn and the dispute was referred to a one-man Labour Tribunal whose awards of 26 January and 19 February 1964 brought the matter to a settlement.

The very placid industrial atmosphere came to be disturbed once again with the closure of Bharathi Mill on 20 November 1965. This sudden closure spelt great hardship to its workers. Subsequently a committee was appointed by the Government of India under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act to study the situation created by the closure of the mill. On the recommendations of the Investigation Committee headed by T.S. Pattabiraman, the Government of India took over the management of Bharathi Mill under the Industrial Development Regulations Act with effect from 5 May 1966. An Authorised Controller was appointed and the mill was re-started on 14 January 1967.

The Pondicherry Catering Establishments Bill, 1964 and the Pondicherry Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Bill, 1964 were passed by the Legislative Assembly on 21 March 1964 granting the workers four optional and four non-optional holidays. The former bill received the assent of the President on 23 April 1964. The Government of India also gave their approval to the introduction of the Pondicherry Shops and Establishments Act, 1964 covering the workers and employees of shops and establishments in the Territory.

The extension of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme to the three communes of Pondicherry, Mudaliyarpettai and Ozhukarai on 2 October marked the most significant event of 1966. The families of all insured persons became entitled to medical care with effect from 1 January 1967. A separate office of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation started functioning from 2 October 1966 at Pondicherry.

The Indian Fatal Accidents Act, 1855 and the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 were extended to this Territory with effect from 24 May 1968. The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 (except Section 3) was brought into force on 1 September 1968. 26

The Pondicherry Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act, 1964 was amended in 1970 with a view to enabling the employees to avail of any additional holiday or leave with wages on any day whenever the four national holidays or the four festival holidays fell on weekly holidays. The same year, the Pondicherry Assembly also passed the Payment of Wages (Pondicherry Amendment) Act, 1970 which amended the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 (Central Act) in order to make provision for the deduction of current consumption charges from the wages. The Pondicherry Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act, 1964, was again amended in 1971 to include May Day as a national holiday thereby reducing the number of optional holidays from four to three.

Labour Court: Under the provisions of the French Labour Code, a labour court was set up in Pondicherry in 1954. This court dealt with individual disputes arising in connection with a contract of employment between workers and their employers. It also decided all individual disputes relating to collective agreements or orders which took their place. Its jurisdiction also extended to disputes between workers arising out of employment\*. Appeals from the court were heard by the Tribunal of First Instance.

Following the extension to this Territory of the Indian labour laws on 1 October 1963, this court ceased to exist. On 9 December, the same year, a new Labour Court with a full-time Presiding Officer was constituted to hear all disputes arising under the Industrial Disputes Act. Appeals from the court are heard by the High Court of Madras.

A brief account of the operation of the various Indian labour laws in the Territory is furnished hereunder:

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923: This Act, extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963, ensured the payment of monetary compensation for workers or dependents of deceased workers for injury or death sustained by workmen due to accident arising out of or in the course of their employment. The Workmen's Compensation (Pondicherry) Rules, framed under the above Act were notified on 27 May 1965. The Labour Commissioner who functions as Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation and the Deputy

<sup>\*</sup> Under article 180 of the Labour Code.

Labour Commissioner who functions as the Additional Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation under the Act, hear and dispose of claims arising under this Act. The details of compensation deposited by the employers under this Act between 1966 and 1974 are furnished below:

(In Rupees)

Year	Pondicherry K.	araikal	Mahe	Yanam
1966	12,266.29	Nil	Nil	Nil
1967	4,200.00	,,	,,	19
1968	8,232.00	,,	,,	,,
1969	5,003.00	,,	"	**
1970	9,600.00	2,500	,,	•,
1971	Nil	Nil	,,	,,
1972	15,390.00	7,000	"	,,
1973	7,000.00	7,000	2	2
1974	7,000.00	Nil	Nil	Ni

The Indian Boilers Act, 1923: This Act was extended to this Territory with effect from 1 October 1963. The Commissioner of Labour performs the functions of the Chief Inspector of Boilers and the Inspector of Factories those of the Deputy Chief Inspector of Boilers under the Act. The Pondicherry Economiser Rules, 1971 framed as per this Act were notified in the Gazette on 26 February 1971 and came into force with effect from 26 February 1971. As on 31 December 1975, 32 boilers installed in this Territory were covered by the provisions of this Act.

The Trade Unions Act, 1926: This Act, extended to this Territory alongwith the other labour laws in 1963, provided for the registration of trade unions and laid down the rights and obligations of registered trade unions. The Pondicherry Trade Union Regulations, 1964 were notified on 27 May the same

year. The Labour Commissioner was declared as the Registrar of Trade Unions in this Territory. As on 31 December 1975 there were 63 registered trade unions of which the Pondicherry Textile Mills Labour Union was the largest. The Pondicherry Electricity Employees' Union, the Ariyur Sugar Mill Employees' Union, the Ariyur Sakkarai Alai Thozhilalar Munnetra Sangam, the Puduvai Mill Thozhilalar Sangam, Anna Thozhilalar Union were some of the popular trade unions in Pondicherry. The Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mill (Mahe Unit) Workers' Union was the largest in Mahe. There was only one registered trade union in Yanam formed by the motor transport workers. Besides these, the workers of the P.W.D., Co-operative Institutions, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, clerks employed in the Mills and transport workers have also formed trade unions to protect their rights. Most of these unions were affiliated to the I.N.T.U.C., A.I.T.U.C., C.I.T.U., the D.M.K. and the A.D.M.K. Federations.

The Payment of Wages Act, 1936: Also extended to the Territory on 1 October 1963, this Act was meant to ensure prompt and regular payment of wages to workers drawing less than Rs. 400 per month in factories, industrial and catering establishments and motor transport undertakings. It also provided for the appointment of 'authorities' to enquire into and pass orders in cases arising out of delayed payment or non-payment of wages and wrongful deduction from the wages and to award compensation. The wage limit was raised to Rs. 1,000 per month with effect from 12 November 1975. With effect from the same date the Act provided facilities, upon the consent of the individual worker, for payment of his wages by the employer either by cheque or by crediting the wages in his bank account. The amounts so awarded were recoverable as though they were fines imposed by the Magistrate. The Pondicherry Payment of Wages Rules, 1964 seeking to enforce the provisions of the Act in the Territory were notified in the Gazette on 14 May 1965. The Labour Commissioner and the Deputy Labour Commissioner were the prescribed 'Authority' and 'Additional Authority' respectively empowered to enforce the provisions of the rules in the Territory.

The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act. 1946: The Standing Orders framed by the 1955 Arbitration Committee and brought into effect on 24 November 1955, remained in force until they were replaced by this Act which was extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963. This Act required the employer of every industrial establishment in which 100 or more workmen were employed to submit to the certifying officer for certification, draft standing orders proposed for adoption in the establishments. It required the draft standing orders to contain provisions on matters relating to terms of service specified in it. Such provisions were required, as far as practicable, to be in conformity with the model standing orders prescribed by the government. The Labour Commissioner who was the Certifying Officer under the Act verified whether the draft complied with the above requirements and before certifying the fact, he gave the employers and the representatives of workers an opportunity to be heard. Apart from all the Textile Mills in the Territory, the Sugar Mill, the Directorate of Electricity, the Pondicherry Distilleries Ltd., the Co-operative Dairy, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, the Handmade Paper Unit and the Pondicherry Cycle Parts Manufacturing Company got their Standing Orders certified by the Certifying Officer.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947: This Act was extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963. It provided for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes and specified the machinery for the purpose. The Labour Commissioner and the Labour Officer were the Chief Conciliation Officer and the Conciliation Officer respectively for the purposes of this Act and its rules. Industrial disputes were first heard by the Conciliation Officer. Where no settlement was reached, the government was empowered to refer the dispute to the Labour Court for adjudication. The awards passed by the Labour Court and the settlements brought about by the Conciliation Officer were binding on both the parties.

The Act imposed certain restrictions on strikes and lock-outs being declared either during the pendency of conciliation proceedings before the Labour Court or during the period of operation of settlement and awards. The Act also prohibited strikes and lock-outs in public utility services without due notice. The management of industrial establishments employing 100 or more workmen were required to constitute Works Committees consisting of representatives of employees and workmen with a view to promoting measures for securing and preserving good relations between the employers and workers.

The Act further provided for payment of compensation for involuntary unemployment besides requiring the employers to give a month's notice or wages in lieu thereof and compensation of 15 days wages for each year of service in cases of retrenchment. The statement below shows the number of cases referred to and disposed of under the Industrial Disputes Act between 1965 and 1975.

	disputes	duri	lisputes rec		Comp- laints		disputes	No. of cases
Year	pending at the beginning of the year	Referred	by Govt. u		under section 33 A of the I.D. Act.	Total	disposed pending of during at the the year end of the year	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1965–60	5 Nil	10	2		_	12	6	6
1966-6	7 6	4	3, 1	<u></u>	_	13	7	6
1967–68	3 6	10			_	16	12	4
1968-69	9 4	25	6	प्रमेन जुड	A	35	14	21
1969-70	0 21	17	3	_	_	41	32	9
1970–7	1 9	17	5		-	31	16	15
1971–72	2 15	20	5		_	40	35	5
1972–7	3 5	13	4	_		22	14	8
1973-74	4 8	16	1			25	12	13
1974–7	5 13	13	1	_	_	27	2	25

The Factories Act. 1948: This was one of the Central Acts extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963. The Pondicherry Factory Rules, 1964 came into force with effect from 29 November 1965. This Act provided for the registration of all factories including those notified under section 85. The following statement furnishes the total number of factories in each region and the total number of workers in position since 1967\*.

Year	Pondicherry		Kara	Karaikal		Mahe		am
	A	В	A	В	Α	В	A	В
1967	 52	9,095	14	491	2	663	1	24
1968	 76	8,653	13	602	2	708	1	12
1969	 151	9,960	52	410	1	416	1	12
1970	 222	10,839	68	487	12	524	7	15
1971	 244	10,491	62	464	12	533	7	8
1972	 261	10,495	68 <sub>4</sub>	495	10	542	7	11
1973	 269	11,494	68	500	10	607	7	22
1974	 304	11,734	73	543	10	587	6	21

<sup>\* 1967</sup> is the earliest year for which the figures are available.

Under the Act it was obligatory to obtain the prior approval of the Chief Inspector of Factories for plans for the construction of new factories and extension of existing factories so as to ensure higher standards of safety based on modern industrial practices relating to working conditions. The

A = No. of applications received.

B = No. of applications disposed of.

number (	of a	upplications	rece	eived	and	dispose	d of	by	the	Chief	Inspector	of
<b>Factories</b>	for	approval	of p	lans	under	the	Facto	ries	Act	since	1966*	are
furnished	belo	ow:										

Year	Pondicherry		Kara	Karaikal		Mahe		am
TÇar	A	В	A	В	A	В	A	В
1966	 (16)1	16	4(1)	4	_		_	
1967	 43(5)	43	6()	6				_
1968	 32(4)	32	2()	2	_		1()	1
1969	 50(11)	48	4()	4	_		_	_
1970	 41(14)	41	l(—)	F==1 _	(1)	1		_
1971	 64(25)	63	6(1)	6	_		_	_
1972	 60(25)	58	5(—)	4	l()	1	1(—)	1
1973	 74(35)	74	1()	1	I()	1	_	_
1974	 96(28)	96	6(1)	6	2(1)	2	1(—)	1
1975	 62(28)	62	2()	2	2()	2	2(2)	2

<sup>\* 1966</sup> is the earliest year for which the figures are available.

Figures within brackets denote the number of applications for the construction of new factories.

The Act further prescribed the standards of comfortable working conditions such as adequate ventilation, lighting and prevention of over-crowding, dust, nuisance, etc. It also provided for the payment of overtime wages for the workers at double the ordinary rate of wages including all allowances and insisted upon the provision of sitting facilities, spittoons, latrines, good drinking water, first-aid facilities, canteen, rest sheds, creches, etc., within the factory premises. The Commissioner of Labour was vested with the powers of the Chief Inspector of Factories under this Act. The Inspector of Factories was primarily responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act in the Territory.

A = No. of applications received.

B = No. of applications disposed of.

The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948: The decret of 6 April 1937 may be said to be the earliest liberal measure of labour welfare in the Territory. Article 36 provided for some kind of medical attention to workers. Although the law provided for the medical care of workers to be met by the management, this was seldom the practice. Social security measures were practically absent. The workers were not entitled to any kind of relief, either when the mills declared a lay-off or whenever the workers fell sick. Articles 63-64 and 65 of the above decret which related to accidents, stipulated the enforcement of these provisions through an arrêtè. But this condition was not fulfilled for long. Four years later i.e. on 26 November 1941, an arrêté was issued, but even this was introduced only as a war-time measure.

The provisions of the Labour Code of 1952 were undoubtedly more progressive than the decree of 1937. There was a dispensary attached to each of the three mills. In the dispensary attached to the Rodier Mill there was a senior part-time doctor and a junior whole-time doctor. There were besides, two male compounders and one trained ayah. In the Savana Mill, there were a male and a lady doctor, two male compounders, one female nurse per shift besides one ayah and a nurse in the creche. In the dispensary attached to the Bharathi Mill, there was a whole-time doctor. There were three male compounders on the whole, one for each shift and when there was no third shift, the third compounder was also available during day time. There was one trained ayah besides a trained cooly in the creche. The accommodation in the dispensaries was very limited and wholly insufficient in the Rodier and Bharathi Mills. The dispensary in the Savana Mill was more attractive and better equipped. The Chakravarthi Arbitration Committee which went into the question of medical aid which was the fourteenth point of reference, directed the two mills to improve their dispensaries to meet the needs of the large number of workers. Calling for additional facilities to be extended to the workers, the Committee stated in its report, "Not only the actual workers but members of their family may be allowed to have the benefit of these dispensaries. Where the workers are unable to come to the dispensary, the mill doctor concerned may be asked to attend to the patient in his house whenever possible. There can be no hard and fast rule on this matter. The managements say that they are prepared to treat the workers and their families free of cost for minor ailments. The workers and their families will also have the benefit of medical consultation in any case. But the difference between the managements and the workers has arisen in regard to the treatment

involving costly medicines and patent drugs. The managements say that though at one time they were making even costly medicines and patent drugs available to the workers, they can no more afford to do it after the wage structure has been raised. We do not consider that it is possible to direct the management to bear the cost of costly medicines in aii cases. Where worker is injured in an accident in the mill or he gets an occupational disease, naturally the burden falls upon the management to get him admitted into a suitable hospital and secure him the necessary treatment. But where a worker or a member of his family falls ill in the ordinary course, the same burden cannot be imposed on the management. But, if the management feels that in a particular case having regard to the length of service and the loyalty of the worker concerned they can do something more than what they are bound to do, they may well do it", 27. The Committee however expressed the hope that the State Insurance Scheme would be introduced in this Territory very soon. As expected, the benefit of the E.S.J. Scheme\* was extended to this Territory with effect from 1 October 1966 as a result of a tripartite agreement reached between the E.S.I. Corporation, the employees and the administration. The Pondicherry State Insurance Court Rules, 1965 and the Pondicherry Employees' State Insurance Court Rules, 1965 and the Pondicherry Employees' State Insurance (Medical Benefit) Rules, 1966 framed by this administration were also notified on 29 September 1966.

सन्यापेन नायने

As power operated factories employing 20 or more workers came under the purview of the Act, workers of all the mills and other factories derived the benefit of the scheme. As a first step, the scheme was extended to Pondicherry, Mudaliyarpettai and Ozhukarai Communes with a full-time Dispensary at Mudaliyarpettai and part-time dispensaries at Reddiyarpalaiyam, Ariyankuppam and Pondicherry. The New Horizon Sugar Mills at Ariyur was not however covered as it was said to be a seasonal factory. The E.S.I. Scheme was extended to Mahe region in August 1970, benefiting about 900 workers in the region. The families of insured workers became entitled to medical benefit since November 1970. Under the extension programme of the E.S.I.

<sup>\*</sup> First introduced in India in the year 1948.

Act, establishments such as small factories using power and factories working without power, shops, catering establishments, theatres, newspaper establishments, etc., were brought within the purview of this Act with effect from 29 February 1976, extending thereby the benefit to nearly one thousand more workers in the areas where the E.S.I. Act was already in force. On the same date the benefits under the Act were extended to Karaikal region also. There were no such establishments in Yanam.

For more details on medical facilities for workers, see Chapter XVI under "Employees' State Insurance Scheme".

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948: The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 was extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963. The Minimum Wages (Pondicherry) Rules, 1964 was notified on 19 May 1965. As the number of workers employed in agriculture, handloom and commercial establishments exceeded more than thousand, they attracted the provisions of the Act. The minimum wages for agricultural workers were brought into force with effect from 1 May 1976. Steps were under way to fix the minimum wages for the other two categories of workers.

The Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952 28: The Pondicherry State Representative Assembly decided on 18 September 1962 to extend the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952 to this Territory. Following its extension on 1 October 1963, the scheme was launched on 5 March 1964. To begin with, over 10,000 employees in 37 industrial establishments in the Territory were benefited. 29 Workers covered by this scheme contribute 6½ per cent. or 8 per cent. of their wages towards Provident Fund and the Act made it obligatory on the part of the employers also to make a matching contribution.

The operation of the Employees' Provident Fund and the Family Pension Scheme in the Territory is the responsibility of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Madras. The whole of Pondicherry was placed under the care of a Grade-I Provident Fund Inspector whose office was at Pondicherry. As on June 1971, 105 establishments with an employment strength of about 15,200 workers were covered by the Employees' Provident Fund Act in the Territory. Of these, about 12,230 workers were contributing to the Employees' Provident Fund.

An industry-wise break up of establishments and employees and subscribers is given below:

SI. No.	Name of the industry		No. of establishments	No. of employees	No. of subs-cribers
(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Trading and commercial .		23	593	503
2.	Mechanical and electrical e	ngineering	13	316	159
3.	Foundry .		1	4	4
4.	Canteen .	- 6545)	<sub>[86]</sub> 1	17	17
5.	Printing Press		<b>A</b> 4	82	62
6.	Restaurant .		2	172	149
7.	Hotels .	· dai: d	4	52	13
8.	Distilling .		1	12	6
9.	Iron and steel .		1	56	53
10.	Wood works		4	100	77
11.	Automobile repairing .	सन्यमेन ज	म <b>न</b> 5	51	38
12.	Miscellaneous clubs .		1	39	15
13.	Matches .		1	50	37
14.	Road Motor Transport .		8	78	54
15.	Heavy and fine chemicals		2	18	16
16.	Textiles .		15	11,122	9,691
17.	Leather and leather produc	cts	1	28	28
18.	Laundry and laundry servi	ice	1	28	24
19.	Rice mills .		2	1	1
20.	Explosives .		1	32	32

(1)	(2)			(3)	(4)	(5)
21.	Building and construction	n	• •	1	20	6
22.	Cinema			4	74	46
23.	Milk and milk products			2	40	30
24.	Sugar		• •	1	841	740
25.	Paper	••		1	163	135
26.	Electricity	Æ.		2	1,177	252
27.	Bank			1	55	40
28.	Establishments not imple the provisions of the sch		ng 	2		_
	Total			105	15,221	12,228

The very next year i.e., as on 30 September 1972 the total number of establishments in the Territory decreased to 103 covering however, 13,650 employees of whom 11,929 fell under the category of subscribers. A sum of Rs. 21,27,817.99 in Employees Provident Fund Account No. 1 and Rs. 36,525.58 in account No. 2 and Rs. 8,71,862.11 as previous accumulations were due as on 30 September 1972, from some of the major textile mills in the Territory.

सन्प्रापन जायन

The Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act,1959: This Act, extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963, provided for the compulsory notification of vacancies to the employment exchange. Under the Act, the Commissioner of Labour was the Director of Employment.

The statement below shows the quarterly growth of employment in public

Period of notification		No. of est	ablishments	Em	ployment
(1)		Public (2)	Private (3)	Public (4)	Private (5)
70/1	Quarter	90	179	14,632	14,633
2	,,	90	180	14,542	14,125
3	**	91	182	14,512	14,347
4	33	95	176	14,893	14,848
71/1	,,	95	179	15,180	14,997
2	,,	98	234	18,555	15,482
3	,,	101	238	17,471*	15,269
4	**	104	235	18,336*	16,166
72/1	,,	103	234	19,188*	16,438
2	**	103	228	20,407*	16,131**
3	,,	103	240	20,429*	16,359
4	**	105	241	20,599*	16,854
73/1	,,	105	240	19,620*	16,868
2	,,	107	245	19,977*	16,361
3	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	108	246	19,409*	16,447
4	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	99	244	18,071*	17,235
74/1	,,	100	242	21.924*	17,206
2	,,	100	245	21,715*	17,265
3	,	102	228	20,985*	16,846
4	,,	103	232	21,180*	17,210

<sup>\*</sup> Included the number employed under the Crash Programme.

and private sector institutions along with details of vacancies notified:

Base 100 as on 31st March 1968		Combined index	Vacancie	es notified		
Public	Private	,	Public	Private	Remarks	;
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)		
110.6	93.3	101.2	162	1		
109.8	90.1	94.8	169	30		
109.7	91.6	99.8	201	14		
	00 as on irch 1969					
112.5	94.7	102.8	157	13		
111.5	102.69	106.8	98	6		
132.2	105.2	120.2	149	20		
120.9	104.5	115.9	268	58	*2,000 crash progra	mme
134.6	103.8	122.2	144	24	*2,569 ,,	
140.9	112.4	126.2	157	12	*3,290 ,,	
149.8	113.8	129.2	254	41	*4,300 ,,	
150.1	111.9	130.3	253	21	*4,300 ,,	
150.1	115.8	132.6	141	20	*2,729 ,,	
	00 as on rch 1970		स्थापेन न	u e i		
134.9	115.2	124.6	127	10	*2,799 ,,	
136.6	111.8	127.6	382	36	*2,938 ,,	
132.6	112.3	122.4	129	39	*2,067 ,,	
120.1	110.9	122.4	315	24	*1,125 ,,	
149.8	115.7	134.1	235	26	*1,125 ,,	
121.4	117.9	133.1	441	3	*1,125 ,,	
146.4	115.1	129.2	251	4	*97 ,,	
144.7	111.6	131.2	290	9	*97 ,,	

<sup>\*\*</sup> Decrease due to close of crushing season in the sugar mill.

Most of the private sector institutions in the Territory were not so prompt in notifying their vacancies to the employment exchange.

The Apprentices Act, 1961: This Act which provided for the regulation and control of training of apprentices in trades was extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963 and the Commissioner of Labour was declared as the State Apprenticeship Adviser. A State Apprenticeship Council was formed on 19 July 1967. The Labour Commissioner in his capacity as State Apprenticeship Adviser was the Secretary of the Council.

The statement below shows the progress in the implementation of the apprenticeship training programme in the Territory since 1968:

(ear			establishments ng apprentices	No. of apprentices recruited for training
968	• •	• •	3	14
969			5 4 1	70
970			10	71
971			14	99
972			15 Journal Chai	120
973			13	179
974			41	237
975			43	283

The Technical Officer (Apprenticeship Training Wing) was the officer directly responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Act. He alongwith the Principal, Junior Technical School, the Employment Officer and the Inspector, Karaikal were all Assistant State Apprenticeship Advisers.

As suggested by the I.L.O. a modern Audio-Visual type class-room was set up in the Junior Technical School, Laspettai. This was meant to serve as a multi-purpose class-room so as to improve the standard of Related Instruction among apprentices in the Territory.

The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961: This Act was extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963. It dealt with matters like medical facilities, welfare facilities, hours of work, spread-over, rest periods, overtime, annual leave, etc. of motor transport workers. The Pondicherry Motor Transport Workers Rules, 1965 were notified on 30 December 1965. All rules except 16, 23 and 25 relating to canteen and medical facilities were brought into force on 18 January 1966 in the Territory.

As on 31 December 1974, 35 establishments employing 283 workers stood covered by this Act.

The statement below furnishes details of transport companies registered under the Act in the Territory:

Description	Pondicherry region	Karaikal region	Mahe region	Yanam region
No. of companies employing less that five workers	ì . ≳ –	<del></del> .		<u></u>
No. of companies employing less than 10 workers	1 .     18		_	1
No. of companies employing between 10 and 20 workers	n . 12	4		
No. of companies employing between 20-50 workers	त्रामेह जस्ते 		_	_
No. of companies employing between 50-100 workers	n . —	<del></del>	_	_
No. of companies employing more than 100 workers	e 			

The Pondicherry Shops and Establishments Act, 1964: The provisions of this Act which were applicable to all shops, theatres and commercial establishments in the Territory, provided several benefits to the employees more or less similar to those assured to workers under the Factories Act, 1948. It provided for the grant of weekly holidays with wages, grant of 12 days annual leave, 12 days casual leave and 12 days sick leave with pay every year and the prompt payment of wages without deductions other than those authorised. It conferred on any dismissed employee a right to appeal against his dismissal to an appellate authority.

The relevant rules under the Act were notified on 24 November 1964. The Deputy Labour Commissioner was the 'Authority' empowered to hear applications from affected persons against dismissals. The Inspector of Factories functioned as an Inspector for the purposes of this Act.

The Pondicherry Catering Establishments Act, 1964: This Act which came into effect on 3 April 1964 provided for the regulation of conditions of work in catering establishments and for certain other purposes. The Pondicherry Catering Establishments Rules, 1964 were notified on 26 October 1964. Employees in catering establishments enjoyed several benefits more or less similar to those provided to workers under the Pondicherry Shops and Establishments Act, 1964. The Labour Officer was responsible to enforce the provisions of the Act in the Territory with the help of Inspectors appointed for the purpose.

The Pondicherry Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act, 1964: This Act passed by the Pondicherry Legislative Assembly came into force with effect from 30 April 1964. It provided for the grant of four national holidays (26 January, 15 August, 16 August, 2 October) and four festival holidays to persons employed in shops and industrial establishments in this Territory. The Act however provided that if a majority of the employees so desired, they could avail of May Day as one of the four festival holidays. The 1971 amendment to this Act brought May Day under the category of 'national holidays' and reduced the number of festival holidays from four to three. May Day is observed as a public holiday in Pondicherry since 1971.

The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965: This was extended to this Territory on 14 June 1965. This Act provided for a minimum bonus of 4 per cent. of the salary or wages earned by the employees during the accounting year or Rs. 40 whichever was higher. This applied even if the concern earned a profit or not. The amendment of 11 February 1976, introduced some important changes in the Act. Under the provisions of the amended Act, bonus became payable only on the basis of profits or on the basis of production or productivity. However, a minimum bonus of 4 per cent, and a maximum bonus of 20 per cent was payable depending on the rate of profit. The minimum bonus was raised (in absolute terms) from Rs. 25 to Rs. 60 in the case of persons below 15 years and from Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 in the case of others.

The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966: This Act provided for the welfare of the workers in beedi and cigar establishments and regulated the conditions of their work and matters connected therewith. This Central Act was extended to this Territory with effect from 1 September 1968. The Pondicherry Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Rules, 1968 framed by the administration were notified in the Gazette dated 20 September 1968. As on April 1976 a total number of eight establishments, employing about 40 workers were covered by this Act in the Territory.

The Contract Labour (Regulations and Abolition) Act, 1970: This Act was extended to this Territory on 10 February 1971. The Deputy Labour Commissioner was declared as the 'Registering Officer' under the Act. The Inspector of Factories was the Licensing Officer with responsibility to enforce the provisions of the Act and the rules.

The following were the other Central Acts extended to this Territory in October 1963:

- (i) The Indian Fatal Accidents Act, 1855.
- (ii) The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932.
- (iii) The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933.
- (iv) The Indian Dock Labourers Act, 1934.
- (v) The Employers' Liability Act, 1938.
- (vi) The Employment of Children Act, 1938.
- (vii) The Weekly Holidays Act, 1942.
- (viii) The Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948.
- (ix) The Plantations Labour Act, 1951.
- (x) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

Again in 1968 the following Central Acts were extended to this Territory under the Pondicherry (Extension of Laws) Act, 1968:

- (i) The Mines Act, 1952.
- (ii) The Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1965 and
- (iii) The Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958.

Apart from these, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972-all passed by the Indian Parliament—were applicable to this Territory.

Wage Boards: The Government of India have set up Wage Boards for different industries to evolve a wage structure based on the principles of fair wages taking into account the needs of industries, requirements of social justice and incentives to workers for advancing their skill. This administration was required to implement the recommendations of the following Wage Boards:

- 1. Second Wage Board for Cotton Textile Industry.
- 2. Second Central Wage Board for Sugar Industry.
- 3. Central Wage Board for Road Transport Industries.
- 4. Central Wage Board for Engineering Industries.

The recommendations of the Second Wage Board for Cotton Textile Industry covered all the five textile mills in the Territory. The Anglo-French Textiles, the Swadeshi Cotton Mill, Pondicherry and the Soundararaja Mill, Karaikal reached agreement with their workers on implementing the Wage Board recommendations benefiting in all about 9,000 workers. Sri Bharathi Mill, Pondicherry and the Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mill which were declared as sick mills have not implemented the recommendations.

The recommendations of the Second Central Wage Board for Sugar Industry covered only the New Horizon Sugar Mills. The management reached an agreement with its workers numbering about 650 on the implementation of the Wage Board recommendations.

With regard to the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Motor Transport Workers, a four-year settlement was arrived at between the management of motor transport undertakings and its workers effective from 1 December 1970. Although the recommendations covered 38 units only, 31 units accepted the recommendations benefiting in all 388 workers. The remaining seven units did not implement the recommendations pleading financial strain. According to the settlement, the workers will receive pay and allowances and house rent allowance as recommended by the Board. The Central Wage Board for Engineering Industries covered four units in this Territory employing about135 workers. As on 31 December 1973 none of the engineering units had implemented the recommendations of the Wage Board.

Housing: The problem of industrial housing received some attention soon after de facto merger especially under the II Plan. Under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme, 234 tenements were built at Kavundanpalaiyam and named as Gandhinagar. The colony was made more attractive to the workers with the addition of a Child Welfare Centre, a Sports and Games Centre and a Crafts Centre, all of which were established during the II Plan period. Under the Integrated Subsidised Housing Scheme, a housing colony had sprung up at Subbiah Nagar under the auspices of the Pondicherry Industrial Workers Cooperative Housing Society, Ltd.

Labour Welfare Centres: There were four Labour Welfare Centres, one each at Mudaliyarpettai, Gandhinagar and Ariyankuppam in Pondicherry region and one at Karaikal, each of which functioned under the care of a Women's Labour Welfare Officer assisted by a Sewing Mistress and a Handicrafts Teacher (or Instructor). The centres were equipped with a library, a sewing section, an indoor games section, a handicraft section and a radio set. The womenfolk belonging to the working class families were taught tailoring and various handicrafts as a means to utilise their spare time to supplement their family income.

Child Welfare Centres: All the four Child Welfare Centres at Gandhinagar, Mudaliyarpettai and Ariyankuppam in Pondicherry region and at Karaikal came to be established in the Territory under the Plan Scheme. Each Centre was looked after by a lady teacher while a nursing orderly took care of about sixty children in the 1 4 age group left by their working parents. The health of the children was also looked after by the nursing orderlies. The children were supplied mid-day meal with the foodstuff supplied by relief organisation like 'CARE'.

Craftsman Training Scheme: The Industrial Training Institute at Tirumalarajanpattinam which started functioning since August 1968 provided training in several trades. Although the Institute started functioning in a rented building and later on moved to the Industrial Estate at Kottuchcheri, it finally moved into its own premises at T.R. Pattinam in August 1973. The Institute had a total strength of 220 trainees.

Distribution of sewing machines: The scheme for free distribution of sewing machines to women faring well in the training programme organised by the Department was introduced in 1961. All such trainees admitted to the course were paid a stipend of Rs. 25 per mensem. Until the scheme was wound up in 1974, about 470 women had undergone training in the centres and as many as 318 sewing machines were distributed free of cost. The centres trained the candidates in needle work, dress-making and embroidery and prepareed them for the technical examinations conducted by the Board of Technical Education, Tamil Nadu.

## II. Prohibition

Prohibition had never been in force in the Territory. In the days of Anandarangapillai, no doubt, some sort of restriction was imposed, during certain periods every year, when drinking as well as the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks were prohibited. During elections, the sale of liquor in public used to be prohibited for one or two days. But otherwise the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks had not come under any ban. The administration itself established a distillery more than 100 years ago in Ariyankuppam, which was subsequently shifted to Pondicherry. A few other small sized distilleries were also in operation. All kinds of spirits whether manufactured from palm-juice, sugar-cane or rice were the monopoly of the administration. The wholesale and retail sale of these items was permitted only under licence. The manufacture and sale of toddy and sweet toddy and the import and sale of tobacco were also government monopolies.30 The Territory's economy depended to a large extent on the income accruing from excise duties on alcoholic beverages (for more details on 'Excise' please see Chapter XI, pp. 990-992). Nevertheless, with the announcement of a 12-point minimum programme on prohibition, the administration decided to implement it with vigour in the Territory. The Pondicherry Prohibition Regulation, 1979 was introduced in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions of this Union Territory with effect from 1 June 1979, to the exclusion of Mahe and Yanam. Following the resolution passed unanimously on 30 January 1980 by the Pondicherry Legislative Assembly to the effect that steps should be taken prohibition in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions, the Pondicherry (Extension) Act, 1980 was passed by the Legislative Assembly and assented to by the President on 3 April 1980. The provisions of the said Act came into force on 25 April, 1980.

Narcotics: Prior to merger all matters relating to narcotics were governed by the deliberations of 15 November 1910 and the decree of 28 September 1912 as it stood amended from time to time. The privilege of sale was leased out for periods ranging from two to five years. Nobody could import narcotic drugs without a valid permit; but the punishment provided for the contravention was a fine of 500 to 1,000 francs equivalent to Rs. 300 to 600 only. This was a flea-bite for smugglers and their financiers and it had no impact on them. The territory has had no special problem regarding narcotics. There were no registered addicts and the sale of opium was completely prohibited with effect from January 1959. No opium was being supplied to this Territory since then, save for medicinal purposes. Nevertheless at the Fifth Zonal Narcotics Conference held at Pondicherry in February 1962 it was decided to extend the Opium Act, 1878 and the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930 to this Territory. In pursuance of this decision, these two Acts were extended on 1 October 1963.

## III. Advancement of backward classes

Comité de Bienfaisance:

The origin of state-inspired social welfare measures may be traced to the period of Governor Deupuy when on 13 November 1823, the Comité de Bienfaisance came to be established here. It must be pointed out that the activities of this Comité were more attuned to the traditional concept of 'charity' as a duty cast upon society to help its more unfortunate members. Nevertheless, services rendered by the Comité de Bienfaisance were commendable in that it could legitimately be described as a forerunner to the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and other governmental outfits that came to be established after merger. The Comité de Bienfaisance had a solid base because it had permanent sources of income and was not affected by vagaries of budgetary allotments.

The Comité de Bienfaisance in Pondicherry was reorganised by the local ordinance of 24 July 1826. Among other things, the ordinance provided that patients suffering from leprosy and cancer may be helped till such time an 'hospice' or an asylum was established for them. The employees of the administration belonging to the lower income group were eligible for some

assistance under certain conditions. The old age assistance was granted to people above sixty years old. Assistance rendered to orphans stood restricted to children below ten years where there were public 'ateliers' or otherwise to those less than 16 years. Widows and disabled persons having more than four children below 10 years and even persons having more than 6 children below ten years were granted some assistance on account of the large size of their family. The amount of monthly assistance was fixed at four rupees per head, six rupees for a family without children and eight rupees for a family without parents.

The Comité was subsequently reorganised by the local arrêté of 20 June 1832 which superseded the local ordinance of 24 July 1826 and that of 22 December 1826 regarding the scrutiny of accounts of these institutions. As per the 1832 arrêté which received the assent of the King, the Comité de Bienfaisance was placed in charge of the special management of charitable institutions, collection and utilisation of their funds, preparation and renewal of the list of destitutes, distribution of 'secours' and evolving and implementing all measures of charity. The sources of income referred to in article 18 of the arrêté included donations from the King, private donations and legacies, the acceptance of which were to be duly authorised by the administration, fines and gifts. The arrêté also determined its composition, sources of income, responsibilities and functions. 31

The arrêté of 1 September 1843 authorised the Comité to advance loans on the strength of pledged security.32 The Comité took care of destitutes of European and Indian origin till 1878 when a special Comité was formed in Pondicherry to take care of destitutes of local origin. This arrangement was however abolished by the arrêté of 1 October 1879.

It is evident from article 21 of the local ordinance of 24 July 1826 that at that time the funds of the Comité amounted to more than one thousand francs. According to the Annuaire of 1850, the annual interest alone derived from the funds of the Comité amounted to 16,894 francs.

The following donations to the Comités are evidenced by records:

Year (1)	Donor (2)	Donation (3)	Authorised by (4)
1830	Kittery Ayavou	A garden in Ozhukarai	Arreté of 22 April 1830.33
1841	Comte Eugéne Desbassyns de Richemont	Amount not indicated in the ordinance	Royal ordinance of 6 September 1842.34
1846	M. François	Rs. 8,000	Royal ordinance of 9 February 1846. 35
1848	Mrs. Smith (a widow)	A residential house and out-house valued at 15,000 francs	Arrêté (Metropole) of 20 October 1848, 36
1880	Comité du Square Desbassyns de Richemont.	Rs. 918 As. 4 P. 9.	Arreté of 2 June 1880.37
1882	M. Houbert, Docteur en médecine	10,000 francs.	Décret of 31 December 1890, 38
1892	Mme. Frion (widow)	2,000 francs.	<b>Arrêt</b> é of 23 January 1892, 39
1903	M. Bayet	Rs. 1,000	Arrêté of 18 September 1903. 40

Records go to show that Baslieu, Conway, Diagou modeliar, Cana Mannavin (Karaikal), Colacara Rangassamy Naiker (Laspettai) and Cou. Lakshmanassamy Chettiar (Reddiyarpalaiyam) have also made donations to the Comités.

The Comités were finally reconstituted by the arrêté of 12 July 1918 with the Mayors as Chairmen. It is noteworthy that in 1917 the Municipal Council of Pondicherry at one of its deliberations had authorised the introduction of a tax (otherwise called 'droit des pauvres') to augment the income of the Comité in Pondicherry. Out of the 25 per cent. of the face value of the tickets collected as entertainment tax, 10 per cent was earmarked for the Comité. This was the main source of its income.

Loans were given to several persons on nominal interest and the income derived therefrom was used for charity. The funds were also utilised to provide relief to indigent members of all communities or to run charitable institutions. The following institutions were in receipt of monthly assistance in cash:

,,,,	wing it	isututions were in receipt of	111011	uy a	asio <b>ta</b> t	ice in casi	4,
	Subsid	dy:		Rs.			
1.	St. Jo	seph de Cluny	••	275	per n	nensem	
2.	Missio	ons Etrangères (St. Antoine)		50		,,	
3.	Maiso	n de Refuge	• •	15.5	55	,,	
4.	Maiso	n d'asile		15		,,	
	Dona	tion :					
5.	Maiso	n de Couture		50		,,	
6.	Maiso	n d'asile		50		,,	
7.	Notre	Dame des Anges		50		,,	
The	follo	wing institutions were in rec	eipt	of m	onthly	y rice don	ation:
	1.	Orphelinat des garçons			352	litres	
	2.	Maison d'asile			250	,,	
	3.	Maison de Couture			250	,,	
	4.	Maison d'hospice	B - B		160	,,	
	5.	Maison de refuge			96	,,	
	6.	Maison de Gonzague			76	,,	
	7.	Missions Etrangères (St. An	toine)		180	,,	
	8.	Couvent Sacré-Coeur de Jés	sus		176	,,	
	9.	Assistance aux aveugles (Bli	nd)		176	,,	
	10.	Dispensaire de St. Antoine			90	"	
	11.	Vedanta Ashram at Sittanar Madam	ıda		180	,,	

12. State's Women's Association .. 90 ,,

13.	St. Louis de Gonzague (Villiyanur)	90	litres
14.	Orphelinat St. François d'assise (Kurichchikuppam)	90	,,
15.	'Avvai' Madhar Sangam, Villiyanur	180	17
16.	Ecole de St. Rock, Dupuypet	120	,,
17.	Oriental Women's Association, Pillaitottam	90	••
18.	Vivekananda Nagar Ladies' Club	90	,,
19.	St. Joseph's Elementary School, Ozhukarai	270	•••
20.		120	,,
21.	Indira Gandhi Mandram, Pondicherry	90	

In addition to the above, cash doles ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 were paid to destitute persons every month. Thus in all about Rs. 2.00 lakes were spent every year for providing relief. The working of the Subrayapillai Endowment was also the responsibility of the Pondicherry Comité.

#### Comité:

The assets of the Comité de Bienfaisance, Pondicherry, included:

सन्यापन जयन

Paddy fields .. One kany 50 kujis auctioned once every three years.

Other fields ... 50 kujis (punjai) auctioned every three years.

Coconut trees .. 160 trees auctioned every year.

Kalyanamandapam .. A rent of Rs. 10 per day was collected.

General Hospital .. A site rent of Rs. 800 was collected.

Interest on loans ... Amounts not exceeding Rs. 5,000 have been given to private individuals at 8 per cent

interest.

In all a sum of Rs. 17 lakhs is held as Fixed Deposit or Savings in two Banks on behalf of the Comité and the Subrayapillai Endowment. The Comité has drawn-up plans for the construction of a shopping centre, some residential houses, and a shelter house for destitute women.

The administration constituted a Committee in 1973 to recommend ways and means to augment the financial resources of the Comité de Bienfaisance, Pondicherry, and to improve and strengthen its working and administration. The Comité at Karaikal distributed uniforms for poor school-going children during Deepavali and food packets on Republic and Independence Days every year. At the time of writing this, steps were under way to activate the Comités at Mahe and Yanam.

### The State Social Welfare Advisory Board:

Soon after merger the *modus operandi* of social welfare schemes in the Territory underwent a new orientation. It was decided to set up an agency in Pondicherry of the Central Social Welfare Board. Accordingly the State Social Welfare Advisory Board was formed on 26 January 1955. The Secretary to Government, Development Department was made ex-officio Secretary of the Board to achieve better coordination. The expenditure on the Board's establishment was shared equally between the Central Board and the Administration.

To start with, the Board organised three Welfare Extension Projects with 15 centres at the following places:

	Project I	Project II	Project III
1.	Bahur	6. Tirunallar	11. Andiarpalaiyam
2.	Seliyamedu	7. Ambagarattur	12. Vanjiyur
3.	Kuruvinattam	8. Settur	13. Tirumalarajanpattinam
4.	Manappattu	9. Tennagudi	14. Mahe
5.	Thimmanayakenpalayam	10. Kila Suprayapuram	15. Yanam

In consultation with the State Board, the administration constituted two Project Implementing Committees to run the Projects which were engaged in child welfare and welfare activities. The centres manned by gramasevikas and auxiliary mid-wives provided medical aid and domiciliary treatment for

I ARIVANKIIPPAM

maternity cases. A major portion of the expenditure on the projects was borne by the Central Social Welfare Board and the Ministry of Community Development, while the balance was contributed by the administration and the local people.

In 1957 when the National Extension Service Blocks switched over to the Community Development pattern, these centres also changed to the new pattern and came to be known as Coordinated Welfare Extension Projects. The 15 centres were reorganised to form two Coordinated Welfare Extension Projects one located at Pondicherry and the other at Karaikal. The newly formed Projects embraced 10 centres each and a few sub-centres. At the same time the centres at Mahe and Yanam were handed over to the Guild of Service in Mahe and the Sishu Samrakshana Kendram in Yanam. As much as 75 per cent of the approved expenditure was obtained as grant from the Central Social Welfare Board.

At the beginning of the Fourth Plan, the Family and Child Welfare Scheme designed to bring the whole family under the welfare programme was entrusted to the Central Board for implementation through the State Social Welfare Boards. Simultaneously it was also decided to convert all the old Welfare Extension Projects into Family and Child Welfare Projects. Naturally the two Coordinated Projects in the Territory also had to be converted into Family and Child Welfare Projects.

It may be noted that an Integrated Child Welfare Demonstration Project was in operation at Ariyankuppam since October, 1964, under the auspices of the Directorate of Social Welfare. This project was also converted into a Family and Child Welfare Project with effect from 14 November, 1967. 41

Under the reorganised scheme the Project Centres came to be located at the following places:

II OZHUKARAI

III TIDIINIALLAD

I. AKITANKUITAM	II. OZIIOKAKAI	III. TIKONALLAK
Sub-Centres	Sub-Centres	Sub-Centres
1. Manaveli	1. Vimakavundanpalayam	1. Karaikovilpattu
2. Kakkayantoppu	2. Laspettai	2. Tirumalarajanpattinam
3. Abhishekapakkam	3. Andipalaiyam	3. Tennagudi
4. Purnankuppam	4. Aranganur	4. Ambagarattur
5. Nonanguppam	5. Nallavadu	5. Nallattur

A Functional Committee for the Ariyankuppam project was constituted on 25 September 1967.42 Since then the entire expenditure on this project was borne by the Central Social Welfare Board. The Pondicherry Coordinated Welfare Extension Project was converted into a Family and Child Welfare Project (Ozhukarai) in August 1968. The Functional Committee to run this Project was constituted on 4 December 1968.43 The Coordinated Welfare Extension Project, Karaikal was converted into a Family and Child Welfare Project (Tirunallar) on 31 March 1969. The Functional Committee for this project was constituted on 29 July 1969.44 The mukhyasevikas employed in these Projects were sent for training at the Training Centres in Delhi and Baroda. The field staff were also deputed for a three months' Orientation Training in Family and Child Welfare at the Training Centre in Gandhigram.

A balwadi was maintained at each centre for 50 children in the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -5 age group. Children were also served mid-day meals. Youth Clubs attached to the centres organised social, cultural and recreational programmes for school going children. Handicrafts were taught and books were made available for reading. Fifteen-day camps were organised for batches of 15 women for training in nutrition, methods of cooking, etc. Classes were also conducted on home craft, mother craft, sanitation and hygiene, etc.

In 1972, two new Family and Child Welfare Projects were started at Mudaliyarpettai and Nettappakkam. Functional Committees to run these Projects were also constituted in November 1973.45 All Family and Child Welfare Projects completing five years were to be handed over to the government to be run by it. Accordingly the three Family and Child Welfare Projects at Ariyankuppam, Ozhukarai and Karaikal were handed over to the Pondicherry Administration with effect from 1 April 1974.

Socio-Economic Programme: Economically backward and destitute women were helped to supplement their family income under this programme. The Central Board extended financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 15,700 to the Pondicherry State Women's Association to set up a Training-cum-Production Unit at Pondicherry for making card-board boxes, paper bags, etc. with the help of the Small Industries Service Institute, Madras. The Pondicherry Women's Cottage Industrial Cooperative Society Ltd., was also given a grant of Rs. 38,000 for starting a printing press. This Unit functions successfully. An additional grant of Rs. 9,500 was sanctioned to purchase a treadle printing machine and types for the press. The Pondicherry State Women's Association was sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10,000 to revive its production unit.

Grants-in-aid programme: There are two types of grants viz., plan period grants and annual grants. Several institutions in Pondicherry and Karaikal are recipients of yearly and plan period grants from the State Social Welfare Board.

The State Women's Association, Pondicherry was extended assistance for carrying out improvements in the balwadi. The Blind Relief Association received assistance for running a craft unit. The hospice run by the sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny was given financial assistance for the maintenance of the aged and the infirm. The Santhi Nursery School, Muttiyalupettai was extended financial assistance for the improvement of its nursery. The Oriental Women's Association, Pondicherry, St. Joseph's Convent, Kurumbagaram and Gandhi Anbu Nilayam, Tirunallar were given financial assistance for the maintenance as well as improvement of their orphanages. The Société Progresiste received help for the consolidation and improvement of its nursery. Under the plan period grants, the Gandhi-Kasturba Orphanage run under the auspices of Viyomashram, Villiyanur and the hospice at Pondicherry were extended financial assistance.

Condensed course of education for adult women: Condensed courses were arranged by the Board with a view to enabling women who had discontinued their studies to complete the same so as to enable them to qualify as gramasevikas, teachers, balasevikas, etc. Such courses were conducted in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Mahe. The All India Women's Conference, Pondicherry Branch and the Family and Child Welfare Project, Mudaliyarpettai, conducted similar courses for adult women with financial assistance from the Central Social Welfare Board.

Holiday Home Programme: The Board sanctioned grants for institutions in the Territory for arranging tour programmes and holiday camps for school-going and non-school-going children.

#### Social welfare:

It was in April 1964, i.e. on the fourth year of the III Plan that the Directorate of Social Welfare was formed. Since then the State Social Welfare Advisory Board came to play a limited role with its attention confined to women and child welfare activities. The care of delinquent and neglected children, defenceless and destitute women, the welfare of prisoners

and habitual offenders, the deaf, dumb, blind and the physically handicapped fell as the responsibility of the newly created Directorate, which besides organising such activities under its own initiative, also encouraged private voluntary agencies to get interested in such social welfare measures.

The Children's Act, 1960 stood extended to this Territory with effect from October 1963. The rules were notified in December 1966. The extension of probation services to Pondicherry in 1967 was the next significant event. Shortly after, two District Probation Officers were appointed to deal with all kinds of probation work as defined in the Act.

A Children's Court was established on 10 June 1967. The same year a Child Welfare Board was also constituted with jurisdiction over the entire Territory. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate was appointed as the Senior Magistrate and Chairman of the Children's Court and the Child Welfare Board. He was assisted in his work by three women Social Workers who also functioned as Honorary Magistrates. In another important development, the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956 (Central Act 104 of 1956) was extended to this Territory on 24 May 1968 and the provisions of the Act brought into force on 1 September 1970 to combat the growing menace of prostitution in the Territory.

With effect from 4 October 1969 the Harijan Welfare Office hitherto functioning independently stood merged with the Directorate of Social Welfare and came to be known as the Directorate of Harijan and Social Welfare.

Pre-schools/Balwadies: Pre-schools and balwadies are the real centres of child welfare activity in the Territory. As on 31 March 1974, the pre-school programme alone covered 95 villages in the Territory. Each pre-school with 40 to 50 children in the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -5 age group was placed under the care of a balasevika and an ayah. The children enjoyed the benefit of informal education through play and recreation and mid-day meal under the scheme. Each pre-school was provided with educational and other equipments.

# As on 31 March 1976, there were in all 86 pre-schools in the following places

# PONDICHERRY REGION

1.	Bahur (1)	30.	Tiruvandarkovil
2.	Bahur (2)	31.	Tirubhuvanai
3.	Manappattu	32.	Mannadipattu
4.	Dhanwantarinagar-Gorimedu	33.	Katterikuppam
5.	Salaitheru	34.	Sellippattu
6.	Manaveli-Ariyankuppam	35.	Madagadippattuppalayam
7.	Dharmapuri	36.	Suttukanni
8.	Kalapet	37.	Kottapurinattam
9.	Pichchivirampet	38.	Andipalaiyam
10.	Gandhinagar	39.	Settippattu
11.	Alankuppam	40.	Sembipalayam
12.	Dubrayapet	41.	Tattanchchavadi
13.	Muttiyalupettai	42.	Perungalur
14.	Pondicherry-Valakulam	43.	Ramanathapuram
15.	Thengathittu	44.	Reddiyarpalaiyam
16.	Nellitoppu (1)	45.	Muttirapalaiyam
17.	Nellitoppu (2)	46.	Pudukuppam
18.	Orlayanpet	47.	Kommapakkam
19.	Villiyanur	48.	Kirumambakkam
20.	Gudappakkam	49.	Solaittandavankuppam
21.	Uruvaiyar	50.	Puranasingapalayam
22.	Sedarappattu	51.	Karasur
23.	Arumattapuram	52.	Kunichampattu
24.	Kariyamanikkam	53.	Pillaiyarkuppam (1) Bahur
25.	Suramangalam	54.	Pillaiyarkuppam (2) Bahur
26.	Pandacholanallur	55.	Poomiampet
27.	Erippakkam	56.	Sanarapet
28.	Embalam	57.	Molappakkam
29.	Madukkarai	58.	Pannittittu

# KARAIKAL REGION

59.	Kottuchcheri	69.	Vadamarakadu
60.	Settur	70.	Karaikal (1)
61.	Vilidiyur	71.	Tirumalarajanpattinam
62.	Niravi	72.	Karaikal (2)
63.	Kilinjimedu	73.	Karaikalmedu
64.	T.R. Pattinam-Pattanachcheri	74.	Karakalachcheri
65.	Pettai	75.	Puvam
66.	Vanjiyur (North)	76.	Ponbetti
67.	Karaikal-Moideenpalli	77.	Talatteruvu
68.	Varachchakudi		

### MAHE\_REGION

78.	Pandakkal	80. Parakkal
79.	Pallur (East)	81. Mahe

### YANAM REGION

82.	Kanakalapeta	85.	Farampeta
83.	Dariyaltippa	85. 86.	Kursampeta

84. Adi-Andrapet

Chinnavirampattinam

All balwadies were under the care of balasevikas trained in child welfare and child psychology. As on 31 March 1976, there were in all 28 balwadies in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. The following are the villages in which the balwadies are located:

### PONDICHERRY REGION

1.	Cininaviranipattinani	11.	Nonankuppani
2.	Tavalakuppam	12.	Manaveli
3.	Purnankuppam (1)	13.	Kakayantope
4.	Kuruchchikuppam	14.	Vimakavundanpalayam
5.	Pondicherry-Govindasalai	15.	Laspettai
6.	Pondicherry-Tiruvalluvar nagar	16.	Nallavadu
7.	Pondicherry-Uppalam	17.	Andiyarpalaiyam-Ariyankuppam
8.	Pondicherry-Kusappalaiyam	18.	Ozhukarai
9.	Ariyankuppam	19	Aranganur
10.	Purnankuppam (2)	20.	Abhishekapakkam

Nonankunnam

#### KARAIKAL REGION

21. Nedungadu 25. Ambagarattur

22. Tiruvettakudi 26. Nallattur

23. Poonmulealmangalam 27. Tirumalarajanpattinam

24. Tennagudi 28. Kovilpattu

Special Nutrition Programme: This programme was launched on 16 August 1970. As on 31 March 1974 there were 52 nutrition centres in the Territory covering nearly 10,200 children as well as 2,220 expectant or nursing mothers. Each of these nutrition centres distributed milk and bread to about 200 children and about fifty expectant or nursing mothers all of whom were provided with health cards.

Observation Home and Special School, Ariyankuppam: Following the extension of the Children's Act in 1963 it became necessary to open an institution for the custody, protection and treatment of children committed to it under this Act. This prompted the opening of the Observation Home and Special School at Ariyankuppam in February 1967. The Director of Harijan and Social Welfare was declared Chief Inspector of the Observation Home and Special School under the Children's Act. On 6 February 1968, the admin i stration constituted an Advisory Committee headed by the Inspector General of Police to advise the Superintendent of the home and to review its working periodically.

Boys up to 18 years and girls up to 20 years as directed by the Children's Court/Child Welfare Board are admitted into the Home. The inmates are provided with food and clothing and imparted, besides general education, training in gardening, tailoring, carpentry, etc. during their stay here. They are also given lessons on morals and discipline.

After-Care Home, Ariyankuppam: The After-Care Home started on 30 December 1970 was attached to the Observation Home-cum-Special School in Ariyankuppam and placed under the supervision of the Superintendent, Observation Home-cum-Special School. The District Probation Officer functions as After-Care Officer and takes care of the children discharged from these institutions.

Service Home, Reddiyarpalaiyam: This home, meant for the rehabilitation of destitute and widowed women, started functioning in October 1964 although it was formally inaugurated on 27 January 1965. The home was under the care of a matron. Here training was given to young widows and destitute women in suitable handicrafts so that after completion of the 3-year training, they could earn their livelihood. The inmates were also given coaching to sit for the E.S.L.C. Examination. Those who were trained in embroidery, needle-work and dress-making were sent for the lower and higher grade Technical Examinations conducted by the Tamil Nadu Government in Embroidery and Dressmaking. A monthly stipend of Rs. 35 for grown-ups and Rs. 15 for children was given to the inmates during the training period. The stipend was increased to Rs. 45 and Rs. 40 respectively for grown-ups and children with effect from November 1975. On successful completion of training, the inmates were provided with a sewing machine together with accessories free of cost, as a means to their livelihood. Some training in gardening was also given to the inmates.

The Rescue and Protective (Shelter) Home, Reddiyarpalaiyam: Following the enforcement of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1970, a Rescue and Protective (Shelter) Home was established in June 1973 and placed under the care of a Superintendent. Women convicted under the Act were admitted here. However women remanded to custody are kept in the Central Jail. Vocational training in such trades as tailoring and dress-making was also imparted to the inmates to facilitate their rehabilitation.

Hostel for Working Women, Pondicherry: The hostel started on 1 May 1970 accommodation for employed women. There is no was meant to provide limit seeking admission the hostel. income for in Government employees are charged a concessional rent of Rs. 5 only per month and others Rs. 20 per month. This hostel with an intake capacity of 40 inmates is under the care of a lady warden. Expenses on food is divided among the inmates. The hostel is provided with reading and recreational facilities. The day to day affairs of the hostel are under the overall management of a Management Committee. The mess is in-charge of a Mess Committee headed by the warden.

Welfare of the orthopaedically handicapped: Until the end of the IV Plan period, the programme of action was restricted to the supply of prosthetic and other appliances to the physically handicapped. However under the Fifth Plan

it was proposed to start a home for the orthopaedically handicapped in the Territory. There was also a proposal to start a home for the aged and the infirm under the Fifth Plan.

Home for destitute and orphan children: As on 31 March 1974 there was no departmental orphanage in the Territory. There was a proposal to set-up an orphanage during the Fifth Plan period to take care of destitute as well as orphan boys and girls up to nine years old.

Beggar Home: Begging has not been prevented by law in the Territory although a proposal was under active consideration. To begin with, it was proposed to open a beggar-home with an initial intake capacity of 50 inmates during the V Plan period.

The Bharat Sevak Samaj and the Lok Karya Kshetras: The Pondicherry Branch of the Bharat Sevak Samaj was extended help by the Directorate of Social Welfare under the 'Public Co-operation Scheme', for running Rural Lok Karya Kshetras in Ariyankuppam and Kalapet in Pondicherry region and Nedungadu and T.R. Pattinam in Karaikal region and Urban Lok Karya Kshetras at Kurichchikuppam in Pondicherry and at Karaikal. The 'National Consumer Service', an association meant to serve the consumers in Pondicherry was also run by the Bharat Sevak Samaj. The operations of the Bharat Sevak Samaj in the Territory came to a stand-still when the Bharat Sevak Samaj came under a probe at the all India level.

Prisoners' welfare: As part of the efforts to rehabilitate the prisoners, a skilled craftsman was appointed in the Central jail to impart training to the prisoners in making items of rattan. Subsequently a skilled tailor was appointed to impart training in tailoring. Machines worth about Rs. 15,000 were also purchased for a Bindery to provide training in book-binding. Training in Amber Charka was provided in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Sarvodaya Sangham which had its branch in Pondicherry.

Mahila Mandals: The setting up of Mahila Mandals in as many villages as possible was an important scheme proposed to be implemented under the V Plan. These Mahila Mandals were intended to build up a base for the

development of integrated services of health, nutrition, education and recreation for children, and family life education for young mothers. Till 31 March 1975, five Mahila Mandals were started in the following villages:

- 1. Ariyankuppam (Radhakrishnanagar)
- 4. Shanmugapuram

2. Virampattinam

5. Murungapakkam

3. Sanarapet

Help to Voluntary Social Service Organisations: A number of voluntary social service organisations in the Territory were extended financial assistance to carry on social service activities and to run orphanages, balwadies, creches, nursery schools, etc. The grant of financial assistance to voluntary social welfare organisations is governed by the provisions of the Pondicherry Grants-in-Aid (Voluntary and Social Welfare Organisations) Rules, 1972. Voluntary organisations engaged in activities having a bearing on the welfare of children, women, youth, the aged and the handicapped and the community alone were eligible for the grant-in-aid.

## Harijan Welfare:

In consonance with the national objective, the Untouchability Offences Act, 1955 was extended to this Territory with effect from 1 October 1963. A separate office for the implementation of schemes relating to Harijan Welfare was started on 1 October 1956, less than two years after merger, with the 'object of ameliorating the conditions of scheduled castes', who formed about one-sixth of the total population of the Territory. The office was placed under the direction of a Harijan Welfare Officer. For about thirteen years the Harijan Welfare Office functioned independently. But on the eve of launching the IV Plan, the office was merged with the Directorate of Social Welfare which came to be known thereafter as the Directorate of Harijan and Social Welfare.

The Presidential Order of 26 March 1964 placed the following castes in the Territory in the scheduled category:46

1.	Adi Andhra	6.	Madiga	11.	Samban
2.	Adi Dravida	7.	Mala, Mala Masti	12.	Thoti
3.	Chakkiliyan	8.	Paky	13.	Valluvan
4.	Jambuvulu	9.	Pallan	14.	Vetan
5.	Kuravan	10.	Parayan	15.	Vettiyan

Prior to the issue of this order, the Tamil Nadu list was adopted for Pondicherry and Karaikal regions, that of Kerala for Mahe and that of Andhra Pradesh for Yanam.

The distribution of scheduled castes according to the 1961 census was as follows:47

	Name of caste	Regio sche	n where eduled	Persons	Males	Females
	(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Adi-Dravida		dicherry Karaikal	24,411	12,406	12,005
2.	Chakkiliyan		,	1,098	553	545
3.	Domban		,,	47	24	23
4.	Kudumban		1	8	8	
5.	Kuravan, Sidhanar	105	<b>"</b>	386	196	190
6.	Nayadi	•	7 P	3	3	· —
7.	Pallan		,, ,,	812	389	423
8.	Paraiyan, parayan (Sam	bavar)	,,	26,417	13,381	13,036
9.	Pulayan or Cheramar		,,	10	7	3
10.	Samban		,,	320	182	138
11.	Thoti		"	38	15	23
12.	Valluvan		,,	1,384	700	684
13.	Vannan	••	"	8	3	5
14.	Vetan	••	,,	69	35	34
15.	Vettiyan		,,	173	81	92

	(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Malayan	••	Mahe	14	6	8
2.	Paravan	••	••	8	4	4
3.	Pulayan or Cheramar	••	,,	1	_	1
1.	Adi-Andhra	• •	Yanam	1,412	697	715
2.	Jambuvulu	• •	5.5	14	9	5
3.	Madiga		· .,	181	81	100
4.	Mala	• •	<b>.</b> ,,	7	5	2
5.	Mala Masti			3	2	1
6.	Paky or Moti			22	9	13
		lien H	STATE SEG	56,846	28,796	28,050

Thus out of a population of 3,69,079 as many as 56,846 belonged to he scheduled castes thereby forming 15.4 per cent. of the total population. The total number of scheduled castes enumerated in the Territory was 23. Regionwise the percentage of harijans was 26 per cent. in Karaikal, 23 per cent. in Yanam, 21 per cent. in Pondicherry and 0.27 per cent. in Mahe.

According to the 1971 census the scheduled caste population amounted to 72,921 forming 15.6 per cent. of the total population. In terms of growth the increase registered was 28.3 per cent. over that of 1961. While the general population had increased by 27.6 per cent. the scheduled caste population had increased by 28.3 per cent.

Details of commune-wise population of scheduled castes according to the 1961 and 1971 census are given below:

Commune		Ye	ar
		1961	1971
Pondicherry		4,147	6,905
Ariyankuppam	••	3,029	3,700
Mudaliyarpettai	•	2,868	4,192
Ozhukarai	AS	4,663	5,876
Mannadippattu		6,490	8,228
Villiyanur		7,666	9,099
Bahur		7,146	10,253
Nettappakkam		5,171	5,721
Karaikal		2,506	2,896
Tirunallar	••	4,169	4,508
Niravi	• •	2,040	2,496
Nedungadu	••	2,434	2,784
Kottucheheri	••	2,217	2,402
T.R. Pattinam		639	2,059
Mahe	••	25	25
Yanam	••	1,639	1,777

While most of the harijans eke out their living as agricultural labourers, a few continue to carry on their traditional occupation as cobblers, potters, washermen, scavengers and so on. Many have found employment as mill workers. A good number of them have turned rickshaw pullers, domestic servants etc. In terms of number (according to the 1961 census) as many as 23,953 were agricultural labourers. Cobblery was their next chief occupation. In all 1,385 were enumerated as cobblers. Of them, as many as 1,138 were found in Pondicherry region, 212 in Karaikal, 35 in Yanam and none in Mahe. In the course of a decade (1961-71) the number of persons engaged in skilled trades has shown a decline, while the number of unskilled workers registered an increase. Although the cruel manifestations of caste system are slowly dying out, the socio-economic condition of these communities has not shown any marked improvement.

The welfare schemes implemented in the Territory followed almost the national pattern, the details of which are furnished below:

Education: The main plank of the work undertaken for the advancement of scheduled castes relates to the provision of educational facilities. The programme of action includes the award of pre-matric and post-matric scholar-ships through a process of selection based on the income criterion. The scheme for the supply of books, slates and other stationary articles is in operation since 1961. The items are supplied free of cost to all harijan students studying from standard I to standard V. The scheme for the supply of clothes (uniform) is in operation from 1965. Under this scheme two sets of clothes are supplied to each student. Since June 1970 scheduled caste candidates undergoing training in the Industrial Training Institute at Karaikal, are given a stipend of Rs. 45 p.m. by way of incentive while candidates of other communities are eligible for only Rs. 25 p.m. in accordance with the rules framed for the purpose. The scheme for the refund of examination fees paid by harijan students was introduced in 1971.

A chain of hostels was started in the Territory to provide accommodation for harijan students. These hostels provide free boarding and lodging for students studying in secondary schools. Since 1974 inmates of all hostels are supplied two sets of uniforms each. Students belonging to backward communities are also admitted to these hostels. In all about 20 per cent. of the seats are allotted to poor but meritorious students of other communities. The hostels are run according to the rules framed for the purpose.

Details of all hostels in the Territory are furnished below:

Nan	nes of the hostels and their	Date on which started	Whether housed in rented building or Government building	Total strength of students
1.	Government Boys' Hostel, Karaikal	30–1–1960	Government building	80
2.	Government Boys' Hostel, Pondicherry	29–1–1964	Government* building	100
3.	Government Boys' Hostel, Serumavilangai	5-8-1968	Government building	80
4.	Government Girls' Hostel, Villiyanur	1-8-1970	Government building declared open on 26 July 1975	80
5.	Government Boys' Hostel, Kariyamanikkam	26-1-1973 सन्यमेन जयन	Rented building	80
6.	Government Girls' Hostel, Karaikal	15–3–1973	Do.	80
7.	Government Boys' Hostel, Yanam	19–6–1974	Do.	50
8.	Government Boys' Hostel, Laspettai	1–2–1975	Do.	50
9.	Government Girls' Hostel, Yanam	14–11–1975	Do.	50
10.	Government Boys' Hostel, T.R. Pattinam	30-6-1976	Do.	50

<sup>\*</sup> The building was transferred to the Directorate of Public Health and Family Planning for locating the Leprosy Hospital. The cost of the building was to be recovered from the Directorate of Public Health and Family Planning to build a new hostel.

The adult literacy programme covering the harijans is implemented in the Territory since 1958. According to an Evaluation Study (No. 20) carried out by the Bureau of Statistics, in all 3,625 illiterate persons (mostly men) were made literate in a period of 13 years (1958–1971) at the rate of about 179 persons per annum. The number of adult schools run by the Directorate of Harijan Welfare depended upon budgetary provision. For want of sufficient motivation, Harijans have not evinced sufficient interest in the programme. The scheme did not 'evoke requisite enthusiasm among the rural illiterate adults'.48

Since 1975, 12 tutorial centres were set up to provide coaching for school students. While secondary grade teachers were engaged to teach students from VI to VIII standards, trained graduate teachers took care of those from IX to XI standards. Such teachers were paid honoraria. Special coaching was given to scheduled caste candidates desiring to appear for the L.D.C. Examination. Such classes are conducted in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions since 1974.

Economic uplift: Most of the harijans are still economically very backward and eke out their living as agricultural labourers. A brief account of the earnings, assets and liability position of harijans is available in the Evaluation Report (No. 12) prepared by the Bureau of Statistics and Evaluation. According to this report only 5.55 per cent. of harijans possessed assets like land or cattle. Of these only 1.37 per cent. of harijans owned land, whereas 4.23 per cent. only owned some heads of cattle. In order to lighten the burden of their profession, agricultural implements such as ploughs, spades, crowbars, axes, etc. are supplied free of cost. Tools and instruments required for carpenters, cobblers, washermen and hairdressers are also supplied to those engaged in their traditional avocations. Indigent members of the community having knowledge of some profession are given tools and instruments free of cost.

A Vocational Training Centre was started at Muttiyalupettai in the year 1959 wherein unemployed scheduled caste youths were admitted every year and given training in cutting and tailoring. This training is given to both boys and girls for a period of one year and the candidates are eligible for a monthly stipend of Rs. 25 or 30. After completion of training, each successful trainee is supplied with one sewing machine free of cost to carry on his trade. In the case of the Cobblers Training Course conducted till the year 1966, trainees were supplied necessary tools to set up trade independently soon after their

completion of training. The attempt at running a Mat Weavers Co-operative Society at Odiampet village in Villiyanur Commune for the benefit of those engaged in the craft did not prove successful. Further, to cater to the needs of scheduled castes in Karaikal region a Vocational Training Centre was started at Karaikal in February 1975.

Housing: Most of the harijan families rarely had a thatch over their heads. Even these thatched huts were often raised on lands belonging to others for which they had to pay exhorbitant rent. These huts were built with whatever waste materials such as torn gunny bags, rusted tins, etc., that they could gather around. Even before merger some feeble attempts were made to meet their problem of housing. Some of the municipalities allotted house-sites to members of these communities within their municipal limits. The allottees, however, were required to pay a nominal rent to the municipalities. Soon after merger, the administration directed the municipalities not to collect any rent from them. The Pondicherry Municipality, through its deliberation of 18 May 1955, exempted harijans from the payment of rent. By a subsequent deliberation of 24 June 1955 the house-sites were assigned to the allottees themselves.

After merger the problem of housing among harijans was sought to be tackled through a two pronged programme of action, i.e. through allotment of free house-sites on the one hand and the construction of housing colonies on the other. In a period of three years i.e. between 1958 and 1961 seventeen harijan colonies were established in the Territory. Details of villages and the number of houses built in the colonies are furnished below:

Name of village		Name of village Name of commune		Estimated expenditure	
				Rs.	
1.	Tirukkanji	Villiyanur	30	18,800	
2.	Sedarappattu	"	42	25,600	
3.	Kommapakkam	Mudaliyarpettai	18	10.700	
4.	Kalitirtakuppam	Mannadipattu	30	18,800	

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
5.	Sorappattu	Mannadipattu	40	Rs. 24,200
6.	Tiruvandarkovil	"	40	24,200
7.	Aranganur	Bahur	30	18,800
8.	Manamedu	,,	33	20,200
9.	Manappattu	**	32	19,800
10.	Kirumambakkam	**	32	19,600
11.	Annavasal	Nedungadu	12	7,500
12.	Nedungadu		30	18,800
13.	Tirunallar-Arangapet	Tirunallar	20	12,500
14.	Polagam	T.R. Pattinam	30	18,300
15.	Vilidiyur	Niravi	30	18,800
16.	Talatteruvu	Karaikal	16	10,200
17.	Dariyaltippa	Yanam 4	30	51,000
		Total	495	3,37,800

These houses with masonry walls are mostly one room tenements with thatched roofs. A nominal sum of rupee one is collected from the allottees by way of rent. These houses have not yet been assigned to the allottees. There had not been any reluctance on the part of harijans to move into these colonies except in the case of Vilidiyur in Karaikal, where the allottees reportedly refused to move into the colony on account of its location in the vicinity of a temple. The houses in this colony were subsequently allotted to non-harijan families. An evaluation study carried out in 1971 drew attention to the fact that sanitary facilities were conspicuously absent in the housing colonies.49

During the III plan period, i.e. between 1963 and 1967 twentynine houses were built for conservancy workers at seven different places as indicated below in Karaikal region:

Name of the	place		Year of construction	Number of houses constructed	Amount spent
Karaikal Town		, .	1966	3	Rs. P. 5,295.13
T.R. Pattinam			1963	5	5,728.38
Karaikovilpattu			1963	5	4,388.10
Kottuchcheri			1965	5	6,428.90
Keezhannavasal			1965	5	6,098.10
Tirunallar	Je Da	E.T.	1967	3	4,940.23
Niravi	4.1		1967	3	5,111.00

All these measures did not even touch the fringe of the housing problem of harijans in the Territory. The scheme for the distribution of free house-sites, under implementation since 1965 added a new dimension to the programme. Under this scheme lands were acquired, divided into plots and allotted to harijans free of cost for constructing houses by themselves. Each family was allotted 1.2 ares (3 cents) of land. Up to 8 October 1974, in all 1,742 house-site pattas were distributed to harijans in 36 villages under the scheme.

Details of villages together with house-site pattas distributed in each village are furnished below:

Sl. No.	Name of village  Commune  Date of distribution  (2)  (3)  (4)		No. of plots allotted to land- less people		
(1)			(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Uppalam-Savariarpet (Netaji Nagar-1)		Pondicherry	November'	67 28
2.	Kariyamanikkam		Nettappakkam	8-10-68	101
3.	Naivachcheri		Tirunallar	1- 7-69	29
4.	Karaikal-Paravaipet		Karaikal	1- 7-69	26

(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)
5.	Devamapuram-Pathakudip	et	Tirunallar	26-8-70	23
6.	Uppalam Savariarpet (Netaji Nagar)	••	Pondicherry	26–1–71	19
7.	Sarcasimedu		Bahur	26-171	16
8.	Attuvaikalpet		Villiyanur	26–1–71	61
9.	Poomiampet		Ozhukarai	15-9-71	69
10.	Karkilambakkam		Nettappakkam	15-9-71	16
11.	Kuruvinattam		Bahur	15971	45
12.	Nettappakkam	• • .	Nettappakkam	15-9-71	67
13.	Mangalam	Á	Villiyanur	3-3-72	33
14.	Orlayampet		Mudaliyarpettai	15-8-72	52
		1	h <b>f</b> 'Hada f	21-8-72	49
		d		31-8-72	10
		A	William	14-9-72	6
15.	Nedungadu-Manałmedu		Nedungadu	2-10-72	15
16.	Uliapathu		Niravi	2-10-72	30
17.	Kil Vanjiyur		T.R. Pattinam	2-10-72	28
18.	Tirunallar-Thachanthidal		Tirunallar	5-12-72	27
19.	Tondamanattam (Ramanathapuram)	••	Villiyanur	26-1-73	26
20.	Gudappakkam		Villiyanur	26-1-73	37
21.	Alankuppam		Ozhukarai	16-1-73	47
22.	Suramangalam		Nettappakkam	27-1 73	114
23.	Karaiyamputtur		Bahur	27-1-73	55
24.	Thiruvengadapuram		Nedungadu	16–3–73	_

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
25.	Tirubhuvanai-Periyapet	Mannadipattu	31-5-73	74
26.	Madagadipattu	Mannadipattu	31-5-73	29
27.	Pidarikuppam	Mannadipattu	5-6-73	35
28.	Uruvaiyar	Villiyanur	22-6-73	56
29.	Mudaliyarpettai-Olandai	Mudaliyarpettai	25-8-73	88
30.	Tiruvettakudi	Kottuchcheri	17–9–73	146
31.	Sivarantagam	Villiyanur	2-10-73	54
32.	Andipalaiyam	Mannadipattu	8-8-74	41
33.	Pangur	Villiyanur	3–10–74	22
34.	Kil-Sattamangalam	Villiyanur	5–10–74	30
35.	Kunichampattu	Mannadipattu	6-10-74	121
36.	Tuttippattu	., Villiyanur	8-10-74	17
		सन्यमेन जपते		1,742

This programme for the distribution of house-sites continued to be implemented with vigour to cover more harijans in many more villages. In all these new settlements about 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the sites were allotted to non-harijans to bring about some kind of communal integration.

Under a scheme launched in 1974 civic amenities such as approach roads, internal roads, pathways to burial grounds, culverts, bath rooms, lavatories, etc. were provided in harijan localities. Such amenities were provided in 41 villages at a total cost of Rs. 7.04 lakhs during 1974-75. Works costing Rs. 5.84 lakhs were under execution in 32 villages at the time of writing this.

Water-supply: As part of the harijan welfare measures, arrangements were also made to provide hygienic drinking water to harijan localities in the Territory. Up to 1967, thirty overhead tanks were constructed in harijan villages. Details of villages in which overhead tanks were built and the year of construction are given below:

Sl. No. (1)	Place (2)				Year (3)
1.	Karkilambakkam				1962
2.	Uthiravaginipet				**
3.	Sattamangalam Andrews	<b>.</b>			**
4.	Tirukkanji				**
5.	Tiruvandarkovil				25
6.	Murungappakkam				72
7.	Erippakkam				1963
8.	Villiyanur–Periyapet	••			,,
9.	Dubrayapet सम्प्रेम नपने				21
10.	Madagadipattu				**
11.	Varachchakudi				,,
12.	Thiruvengadapuram				,,
13.	Sendanattam				1964
14.	Solaittandavankuppam	, ,	• •		,,
15.	Kudiiruppupalayam				,,
16,	Kirumambakkam				**
17.	Manamedu-Bahur				,,
18.	Odiyambattu			.,	***

(1)	(2)	<u> </u>			(3)
19.	Sorapattu				1964
20.	Sanyasikuppam	••			,,
21.	Niravi-Vadakupet				,,
22.	Melaoduturai	••			",
23.	T.R. Pattinam-Mariammanko	il area			٠,
24.	Kottuchcheri-Keezhapet	••			,,
25.	Karaikal-Thalatheru				1966
26.	Oussudu				,,
27.	Kil Kassakkudi				"
28.	Serumavilangai				**
29.	Vadakattalai				1967
30.	Vadhanur		, ,	• •	,,

Up to 1976 eight pressure tanks were constructed at the following villages:

J.	Pichchivirampet	 1972	5.	Pandaravadai Settur	 1973
2.	Kandanpet	 1973	6.	Kil Vanjiyur	 1973
3.	Karkkangudi	 1973	7.	Tiruvettakudi (North)	 1974
4.	Akkaravattam-Periyapet	 1973	8.	Sorakkudi	 1976

The following villages were benefited by extension of pipelines:

# Pondicherry region

1. Uthiravaginipet

2. Poraiyur 3. Thengathittu

# Karaikal region

1.	T.R. Pattinam-Mariammank	ovil area 10.	Kottuchcheri (North)
2.	Vadakattalai	11.	Kottuchcheri (East)
3.	Thalatteruvu	12.	Kottuchcheri-Keezhapet
4.	Elayankudi	13.	Kottuchcheri-Arulapillai Sethi
5.	Naivachcheri-Periyarnagar	14.	Kil Kassakkudy
6.	Nallambal	15.	Tiruvettakudi
7.	Melaiyur	16.	Tiruvettakudi (North)
8.	Kil Oduturai	17.	Tiruvettakudi (South)
9.	Niravi (North)		

In all 50 wells were constructed in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. A list of places where the wells were dug is furnished below:\*

# Pondicherry region

1.	Aranganur	5.	Pudukkuppam
2.	Kakkayantoppu	6.	Sellipattu
3.	Manamedu-Bahur	7.	Uthiravaginipet
4.	Manappattu (Colony)	8.	Virampattinam

<sup>\*</sup> List furnished by the Directorate for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Some of the villages mentioned here do not figure among the 388 census villages.

# Karaikal region

1.	Andur	22.	Pandaravadai Settur
2.	Kottuchcheri-Arulapillai Sethi	23.	Polagam
3.	Devamapuram (1)	24.	Puvam
4.	Devamapuram (2)	25.	Tirunallar-Sakkilipet
5.	Kakkamuli (1)	26.	Varachchakudi-Sendapattu
6.	Kakkamuli (2)	27.	Serumavilangai (1)
7.	Karaikal-Kallaraipet	28.	Serumavilangai (2)
8.	Karaikal-Periapet	29.	Tennagudi
9.	Kil Vanjiyur	30.	Tirunallar-Pathakudy
10.	Mathur-Kothankudy	31.	Tiruvettakudi
11.	Kottuchcheri-Keezhapet	32.	T.R. Pattinam-Mudalimedupet
12.	Kulakudy	33.	Karaikal-Paravaipet
13.	Vizhidiur-Manampettai	34.	Vadakattalai
14.	T.R. Pattinam-Mariammankoil area	35.	Valattamangalam (1)
15.	Mel Kasakkudi-Thenpadhi	36.	Valattamangalam (2)
16.	Nallattur	37.	Valattamangalam (Keezhapet)
17.	Nedungadu-Manalmedu	38.	Valattamangalam (South)
18.	Naivachcheri	39.	Valattamangalam (West)
19.	Uliapathu	40.	Vanjiyur
20.	Karaikal-Pallivasalpet	41.	Varachchakudi-Pulianthope
21.	Panchatcharapuram	42.	Vilidiyur (Colony)

Community Halls: The scheme for the construction of Community Halls in harijan settlements so as to provide them better places for conducting meetings, adult education classes and social functions like marriages, etc., was taken up for implementation in 1961. Till the end of March 1968, thirtyfive community halls were constructed in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions.

The following are the places in which the community halls are located:

Sl. No (1)	Name of village (2)			Commune (3)	
1.	Dubrayapet		• •	• ,	Pondicherry
2.	Kurichchikuppam				"
3.	Orlayampet	i Ku	[.T.	EQ.	Mudaliyarpettai
4.	Puduppalayam				,,
5.	Tiruvandarkovil (Colony)				Mannadipet
6.	Katterikuppam				,,
7.	Kalitirtakuppam	6			,,
8.	Villiyanur-Periyapet				Villiyanur
9.	Sendanatam		स्यमेन	1461	"
10.	Sedarappattu		••		"
11.	Kirumambakkam				Bahur
12.	Madukkarai			• •	Nettappakkam
13.	Kariyamanikkam				••
14.	Karkilambakkam				,,
15.	Karaikal-Karaikovilpattu				Karaikal
16.	Karaikal-Thirunagar				,,
17.	Karaikal–Kothapet				**
18.	Ambagarattur (Colony)		÷ ÷		Tirunallar

(1)	(2)				(3)
19.	Tirunallar-Therkkupet				Thirunallar
20.	Serumavilangai		• •	• •	27
21.	Kil Subbarayapuram				55
22.	Niravi-Kilaspet		٠.		Niravi
23.	Akkaravattam-Periyapet				"
24.	Kottuchcheri-Keezhapet				Kottuchcheri
25.	Kottuchcheri-Thenkaraipe	et	• •		"
26.	Kottuchcheri-Arulapillai	Sethi			"
27.	Kil Kassakkudi	• •		• •	**2
28.	Tiruvettakudi	Æ	T.	國和	>>
29.	Vadamattam				Nedungadu
30.	Paruttikkudi				31
31.	Vadakattalai				,,
32.	Puttakudi-Tondamangala	mpet			**
33.	Melannavasal-Salaipet				,,
34.	Keezhannavasal	4	यमेन व	<b>प</b> ने	,,
35.	T.R. Pattinam-Mudalime	dupet			T.R. Pattinam

Other social welfare measures: The poor among the scheduled castes were given legal aid in all proceedings relating to eviction cases before civil and criminal courts under the Pondicherry Legal-Aid to Poor Scheduled Castes Rules, 1971. However not many have sought assistance under these rules so far.

The organisation of Madhar Sangams in villages where harijans are predominant was a recent endeavour, designed to educate the women on family budget, family planning and also to teach them some useful trades. Such Madhar Sangams were given a sewing machine each and some cooking vessels for the purpose. While a few sangams have already been started in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions, more were under formation.

In an effort to encourage marriages between members of scheduled castes and other communities, such couples were given gold medals, weighing one and a half sovereigns of 14 carat purity. The above scheme was subsequently modified so as to present the couple with a sum of Rs. 5,000 of which Rs. 300 was allowed for marriage expenses, Rs. 700 for purchase of household articles and Rs. 4,000 was given in the form of Small Savings Certificates in the joint name of the couple.

Financial assistance was extended to voluntary organisations engaged in harijan uplift work and in the propagation of the evils of untouchability in the Territory. The following are some of the other social welfare measures implemented by the Directorate.

- 1. Grant-in-aid to municipalities for elimination of the practice of carrying night soil as head loads.
- Grant-in-aid to municipalities for construction of houses for conservancy workers.

Reservation: As per government orders, 16 per cent, and 5 per cent, of government jobs were reserved for candidates belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

A State-Level Advisory Board was constituted in February 1966 with a view to safeguarding the interests of harijans in the Territory and to look into their grievances. A high level committee with the Lieutenant-Governor as Chairman was constituted in 1975 to look after the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and to review the schemes implemented for their welfare. A high level cell with Secretary (Welfare) as Chairman was constituted in 1976 to review incidents involving offences against members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Territory.

# IV. Endowments, Mutts and Choultries

The creation of endowments in favour of temples, mutts and choultries was one of the most popular acts of piety in the olden days. Sometimes the devotees themselves caused the erection of temples, mutts or choultries and endowed properties in their favour especially for their upkeep and maintenance, for the celebration of certain festivals or religious ceremonies or for feeding pilgrims, mendicants or sanyasis.

The inscriptions in the temples at Bahur, Madagadipattu, Tirubuvanai, Tiruvandarkovil and Villiyanur, all situated only a few miles apart in Pondicherry region, have their own history to tell on the religious and charitable endowments so benevolently made both by rulers and commoners during the Pallava, Chola and Vijayanagar days. We understand from the Bahur copper plate inscription that during the reign of Nrpatungavarman (IX century) one of his chieftains by name Marthandan made over to the Bahur Vidyasthana, three villages situated in his district as gift after getting the approval of his overlord King Nripatunga. The names of the villages referred to in the inscription are Settupakkam, Vilangattangaduvanur and Iraippunaicceri. The revenue derived from these villages was meant for the maintenance of this college and its wards. It is clear from the Tamil portion of the grant that the gift to the college was a brahmadeya.

From the inscription of Bahur temple we learn that this temple was built by a Chola king and was provided with ample endowments for religious and charitable purposes. The inscriptions in the Siva temple at Thiruvandar-koil in Pondicherry region and at Settur in Karaikal region also speak of the munificence of the Chola kings of a later period.

The Rajendracholan madam in Tirubhuvanai is the earliest mutt (Eleventh century) that we hear of, established in this part of the country during the Chola days. An inscription in the Tirubhuvanai temple alludes to a gift of land to the mutt to feed the Sri Vaishnavas of 18 districts. Another inscription of Kulothunga-I refers to a gift of land by the Assembly of Tirubhuvanamadevi Caturvetimangalam for feeding sampradayins during the festival of the temple of Thirumerkovil Alwar of Merkovil in the Vedanta Vediya Madam. Yet another inscription pertaining to the 48th regnal year of Kulothunga-I refers to a gift of land for Thirunavukarasu madam to feed intinerant A fifteenth century inscription in the Villiyanur Sivayogins and Maheswarars.50 temple refers to a gift of land for a Saiva mutt. According to another inscription in the same temple one Meygnana Mamuni is said to have organised a mutt in Villiyanur. Villaipuranam (stanza 125) also tells us that there were many Saiva mutts there.51 But there is no evidence to show that there were mutts in Villiyanur prior to this period. Nothing much is known about madams since then till about the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Down through the centuries choultries in and around Pondicherry have served as halting points for devotees coming from north on pilgrimage to Rameswaram. The existence of a large number of choultries situated on the outskirts of villages or towns or near temples on important highways is attested to by several foreign travellers. Le Gentil compared these choultries to the caravan sarais of Persia. He says that one could come across at least one such choultry at a distance of every 'demi leiue' (two km.). 52 These choultries were very often built either by prominent or well-to-do people in order to perpetuate their names or in fulfilment of some religious vows. The maintenance of these chavadies and chatrams as they were popularly called, was very often provided for by endowments of properties and lands. The French Administration too encouraged such a practice by issuing necessary authorisation to such endowments.

The Royal Ordinance of 30 September 1827 laid down the procedure to be followed in the colonies for the acceptance of donations and legacies in favour of churches, the poor and public institutions. The term 'temple' was given a liberal interpretation to include mutts as well, enabling the administration to intervene in the affairs of mutts in the establishments. Records go to show that whenever instances of mismanagement or misappropriation were brought to its notice, the administration took action on the basis of police reports after obtaining the counsel of legal authorities. Nevertheless, many of these endowments created in favour of choultries and mutts or for purposes of charity fell into evil days. One of the most generous of endowments was made by Calvé Sadasiva Chetty by his testament dated 25 July 1889. It is difficult today to trace even the remnants of this great institution.

Even after de facto merger these institutions continued to be governed by the French laws. Following de jure transfer, the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890 and the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920 (Central Acts) were extended to this Territory with effect from 1 October 1963. Subsequently, however the Pondicherry Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1972 was brought into force with effect from 1 July 1975. The Act defined a Hindu religious institution as a mutt, temple or specific endowment. Specific endowment is defined as any property or money endowed for the performance of any specific service or charity in a mutt or temple or for the performance of any other religious charity. As such this Act may be considered as covering endowments in the Territory. The mutts in the Territory are also governed by the provisions of the above Act as all mutts are defined as Hindu Religious Institutions under section 2 of the Act.

Given below is a brief account of the endowments, mutts and choultries in the Territory:

#### Endowments:

Diagu Mudaliar Endowment, Pondicherry: This endowment, named after its founder, was created in 1835 with properties in Pondicherry and South Arcot District. The property consisted of a single storeyed house at Thiruvengadapillai Street (now Rangapillai Street) in Pondicherry, dry and wet lands in Olandaively, Ozhukarai, Abhishekapakkam, Puduppalaiyam, Karamanikkuppam, Tirunallar, Uchchimedu, Annavely and Uppalavady, a garden called Marial thottam in Ozhukarai encompassing an area of one kany approximately and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  kanys of paddy lands in Abhishekapakkam.

Diagu Mudaliar had himself framed the rules and regulations in May 1848 and 1849 for running the institution. He had further carried out several other works of charity in Muttiyalupettai, Ariyankuppam, Puduppalaiyam, Socclapet, Tirukkoyilur, etc. He built a Guest House for European travellers and soldiers on a site donated by the administration where the Government Tourist Home in Uppalam road was located. He wished to erect a clock tower in the heart of the town, as in other big cities, to enable the people of the town to know the time. The endowment was recognised by the government as per the arraté of 1 May 1929.

His son Gnanou Diagu added some more properties in Archivak in favour of this endowment for the purpose of celebrating certain feasts, anniversaries and for running a thanneer pandal, i.e. a place to serve drinking water. His donation was also authorised by the arrêté of 2 September 1939.

M/s. Arunachala Mudaly and Venkatachala Mudaly Endowment, Pondicherry: This endowment came into being by virtue of a testament dated 17 July 1872, signed by Arunachala Mudaliar and Venkatachala Mudaliar of Pondicherry. They endowed a house in Kamatchiammankoil Street, Pondicherry in favour of the Karpagavinayagar temple in the flower garden belonging to the community of Sengundars. The income from this property was meant to be utilised for the maintenance of the temple. This endowment was approved by the administration by the arreté of 1 February 1938.

By virtue of another testament dated 14 September 1882, the above said philanthropists added two houses in Kamatchiammankoil Street, two shops in Valudavur road and lands measuring approximately five kanys to the endowment. The income from these properties was meant to celebrate kandashasti festival in Sri Vedapuriswarar temple and to run a thanneer pandal in the Karpagavinayagar Nandavanam near Chevroypet. The income from the lands was meant to be utilised for offering kanji (rice gruel) at the temple built over the samadhi of Sithanandaswamy. This endowment was also recognised by the administration as per the arrêté dated 14 December 1937.

Chinna Subbrayapillai Endowment, Pondicherry: This endowment and the choultry attached to it emanated from the will of 7 June 1875 left by Chinna Subbrayapillai. As he had no surviving child, all his movable and immovable properties worth Rs. 3,44,485 was earmarked for charitable purposes. Through his will he had requested the administration to register all his properties in the name of his daughter Vedavally Natchiar and to distribute food (cooked rice mixed with water) to destitutes from the proceeds of the charity funds. The government honoured his wishes and continued the poor-feeding. A separate committee headed by the Mayor of Pondicherry Municipality was constituted for the purpose of administering the funds of the endowment. Besides arranging for poor feeding, the committee distributed rice at the rate of six litres per month to about 500 families and cash doles ranging from Rs. 3 to Rs. 20 per mensem to more than 400 persons. The choultry is situated at Souprayapoulle thottam in Orlayanpet.

Thiru Ganapathy Gurukkal Endowment, Pondicherry: In 1902, one Ganapathy Gurukkal of Iswaran Dharmajakovil Street, Pondicherry, executed a deed endowing two houses and six parcels of land, then worth in all about Rs. 10,000 yielding an annual income of Rs. 500. During his lifetime, he fed twelve brahmins on both the Duvadasi days every month with the said income. He had enjoined in his will that his descendants should continue to feed the same number of brahmins on all Duvadasi days. This endowment does not appear to have been granted official recognition as per article 12 of the ordinance of 30 September 1827.

Sri Venkatramayer Endowment, Pondicherry: This endowment came into being by virtue of a testament of 15 April 1926 signed by Veeraraghavayar, alias Venkatramayer residing at Nidarajapayer street, Pondicherry. He endowed

a sum of Rs. 5,000 the income from which was meant to defray the expenses involved in bringing the idol of Sri Ranganathaperumal of Gingee to Pondicherry on the occasion of the Theerthavari festival in the month of Masi and for taking it back to Gingee.

Through another testament dated 19 June 1926, the said Venkatramayer had donated to his cousin Naatchiarammal and her husband Pitchouayer the house at No. 78, Nidarajapayer Street. The said Pitchouayer was permitted to reside in the house, carry on proguida (priestly duties) and enjoy the proguida gouttagai (priestly income). Pitchouayer was also required to construct a house in the Vazhaithottam at No. 69, Nidarajapayer Street to utilise the income from the said building for the purpose of offering food to two dessandris every night in Vedapuriswarar temple and Perumal temple.

He endowed his lands at Nonanguppam and Kommapakkam for the purpose of providing alms to brahmins on all the ten days of *Navarathiri* in the month of *Purattasi*. The house at No. 66, Nidarajapayer street which he had bequeathed to his mother-in-law Ponnammal was also endowed by him for the same purpose after her death. This endowment was approved by the arrêté of 8 May 1939.

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Annamalai Mudaliar Charitable Endowment, Pondicherry: This endowment was created by one Annamalai Mudaliar as per his wish given effect to in his will dated 21 September 1943. Out of the revenue derived from the lands donated in favour of his wife, she was required to offer food to pilgrims on the day following the kandashasti festival in the month of Aippasi and every month during the lunar phase called Pourvapatcham shasti thidhi after taking the amount required for her maintenance. He further enjoined upon the members of the committee constituted by him to utilise the income from a sum of Rs. 1.20 lakhs that was due to him for starting a Tamil school, rendering assistance for the promotion of arts and crafts among members of the Sengundar caste, awarding scholarships every month to poor students preparing for the Pandit course, for celebrating Tirukalyana Urchavam during Kandashasti at Vedapuriswarar temple and for holding two processions called Predochautchavam in Vedapuriswarar temple.

Subsequently, he donated about 30 kanys of land in Muthukrishnapuram near Panrutti for the above said endowment. The members of the committee were required to utilise the revenue derived from the endowment to provide mid-day meals to the poor. This endowment was approved by the administration by the arrêté of 4 February 1949.

Ponnour Narassimmalu Chettiar Endowment, Pondicherry: This endowment was created by one Ponnour Narassimmalu Chettiar, 46, Komutty Street, Pondicherry, through his testament dated 28 December 1951. He had also donated some properties towards the endowment for running a school. This endowment was authorised by the arreté of 25 February 1953.

Appavu Gramany Endowment, Muttiyalupettai: This endowment was created in the year 1926 by one Appavu Gramany of Muttiyalupettai. Some ten years later by virtue of a testament dated 29 July 1936, he gave some properties for the endowment. He directed that the income from these properties should be set apart for the maintenance of the Sengazhuneeramman, Ayyanar and Pillayar temples situated respectively in Parimalamudalipet, Vaithikuppam and Muttiyalupettai and the choultry named after him and for the celebrations of the three-day Chedal Urchavam in Sengazhuneeramman temple. The endowment was granted recognition by the arreté of 20 October 1936.

Komuttykolam Endowment, Pudupalayam: This endowment was created by the ancestors of one Muthia Srikantan Chetty viz., Muthialou Venuchettiar and his nephew Subbrayachettiar for the benefit of the members of the Komutty caste. The income from the property endowed was meant to be utilised for the celebration of a festival dedicated to Ellaiamman and for the uplift of the members of the Komutty caste. The endowment was approved by the arrêté of 6 June 1934. This endowment is under the management of the Arya Samajam at No. 6, Komutty Street, Pondicherry.

S. Ponnusamy Mudaliar Endowment, Pondicherry: S. Ponnusamy Mudaliar of Pondicherry endowed lands measuring approximately eight kanys located at Tattanchchavadi and Kavundanpalaiyam (now Gandhinagar), paddy land measuring one kany and seven koujis at Gudappakkam and a house at No. 82, Kalatheeswaran Koil Street, in favour of this endowment by a testament dated 24 December 1924.

As per the testament, the income from the above said properties was meant to be utilised for feeding five wandering mendicants on every kiruthigai day and twenty-five wandering mendicants once a year on tai poosam day. It was further enjoined that rice gruel should be distributed to the poor during the Virampattinam car festival in the month of Adi and during the Magam festival in the month of Masi. The testament provided for the celebration of Palaniyandi festival in the Iswaran Dharmarajakovil, Pondicherry and that of Sri Ramanavami in the Varadarajaperumal temple, Pondicherry, every year. Under article 12 of the Ordinance dated 30 September 1827, the above said endowment was authorised by the administration as per the arrêté of 17 June 1940.

Nadou Chanmougha Velayuda Mudaliar Endowment, Pondicherry: This renowned politician of Pondicherry had built a temple dedicated to Nandi-keswarar near his residence in Vellala Street (now named after this political figure). As he had no legal heirs, he endowed all his properties which consisted of three houses and a small piece of cultivable land valued at Rs. 10,000 in 1936 in favour of this temple.

Srimath Ramanuja Katha Kalatcheba Kudam, Nellitoppu: This kudam was started by one Shri Govinda Chettiar in a house at Nellitoppu. By virtue of a testament dated 26 July 1913 Subbraya Chettiar, son of Govinda Chettiar, endowed some of the properties in Tirukkanchi in favour of this kudam for the purpose of puja to be performed every day, for offering Tirumanjana puja every Saturday, etc. This endowment was not recognised by law.

S. Adimoulachettiar Endowment, Mudaliarpettai: By virtue of a testament dated 20 June 1923, one Adimoulachettiar of Mudaliyarpettai, endowed a house and a plot of land in Mudaliyarpettai, in favour of Sri Varadarajaperumalkoil for the celebration of Vaikunda Ekadasi every year. The will further provided that twenty brahmins be fed on the day following Vaikunda Ekadasi. Five brahmins were to be fed every day (Dessandarakattalai). After his death his wife Danammalle was requested to fulfil his last wishes. In case the revenue from these immovable properties were not adequate enough, the heirs were authorised to dispose of them and to buy with the sale proceeds some paddy lands. He further enjoined that the charity should be continued with the income derived from these lands. The endowment was granted authorisation by the arrêté of 22 February 1940.

Shrimati Ananthammal Endowment, Villiyanur: In 1871, one Ananthammal who had come from Vellore to settle down in Villiyanur, had endowed as per her testament of 13 April 1871, some properties including the 'Ammal Kulam Choultry', some shops and the 'Bangala Thottam' at Kanuvapet, Villiyanur, for charitable purposes. The endowment was authorised by the arrêté of 3 January 1871. The management of this endowment was vested with a committee appointed by the administration from among notable Thuluva Vellalas of Villiyanur.

Govindassamy Chettiar Endowment, Kanuvapet, Villiyanur: By virtue of a will dated 31 August 1931, one Govindassamy Chetty (Vanouva sect) of Kanuvapet endowed in favour of Gokilambal Thirukameswarar temple in Villiyanur some lands in Odiyampet, the income from which was meant to be utilised to celebrate Brahmortchavam and Tirukalyanam on the eighth day of the Villiyanur festival. The interest due from one Rangassamy Chettiar of Villianur for his debts was also earmarked for the same purpose. The endowment was approved by the arrêté of 16 July 1946.

Agasthyamamounivar Endowment, Tirubhuvanai: One Arunachala Chettiar by his will dated 20 July 1900 and registered on 26 November 1901 had endowed some of his properties for the said endowment. This appears to be one of the many endowments which have gone defunct.

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Somasundarampillai and Ramassamypillai Charitable Endowment, Karaikal: According to a notary deed dated 19 March 1892, Somasundarampillai and Ramassamypillai of Karaikal endowed some lands at Kizhamanai village in favour of the choultry of Kumarasamy Madam in Oduturai and Annachatirams at Karaikal and Kasakkudi. Little is known about the present state of affairs of the endowment.

Palaniandy Chettiar Charitable Endowment, Karaikal: By virtue of a testament dated 24 March 1932, Shri Palaniandy Chettiar brought into being a charitable endowment named after him. He donated three shops situated in Karaikal and wet lands and dry lands measuring 7 Ha. 4 A. 95 Ca. in Kovilpattu towards the endowment. He further enjoined that a thanneer pandal

should be opened to distribute water and butter milk to travellers during summer and that coconut rice should be distributed to 300 pilgrims during the *Mangani* festival. This was recognised by the administration by the arreté of 9 November 1935.

Velayudhachettiar Endowment, Porayar Road, Karaikal: One Velayudha Chettiar of Karaikal as per his testament dated 1 May 1912 endowed some lands measuring about 96 acres (38.4 Ha.) situated at Arumolidevan village, Nannilam Taluk in Thanjavur District in favour of the Sithivinayagar temple in Karaikal. The revenue from the landed properties was meant for the maintenance of the above said temple and to carry on the day to day offering and festivals of the temple. He further enjoined that a choultry should be built at Arumolidevan village together with a well for the benefit of the public.

Vi. Sa. Gurusamichettiar Dharma Kaingaryam, Karaikal: Vi. Sa. Gurusami Chettiar of Kovilpattu instituted a charitable and religious endowment called 'Vi. Sa. Gurusamichettiar Dharma Kaingaryam' by virtue of a testament dated 22 December 1960. By virtue of the notary deed of 7 March 1962, he donated paddy lands at Mel Kasakkudi measuring 3 Ha. 44 A. 47 Ca. and a flower garden called 'Nandavanam' in favour of the endowment for conducting certain ceremonies and holding some festivals. This endowment was granted recognition by the arreté of 18 January 1962.

Varadappachettiar Endowment, Grand' Aldée: By virtue of a testament dated 10 June 1882, one Varadappachettiar of Grand' Aldée endowed wet as well as dry lands measuring approximately one vely and thirty coujis

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In 1922 the administration of the endowment passed into the hands of the administrators of the temple of Sadaisvarasamy of Grand'Aldée following the death of all the previous members. It is understood that as willed by the founder, a kitchen block was constructed; lands at Kilaiyur and Melayur were purchased in the name of the temple and a choultry constructed.

Manonmany Charitable Endowment, Kottuchcheri: One Manonmany belonging to the Thondaimandala Vellala caste of Kottuchcheri, Karaikal, endowed some lands in favour of Kodeeswaramudear and Mariammane temples of Tiruvettakkudi by virtue of her testament of 8 April 1916.

Thiruvenkidattapillai Charitable Endowment, Kottuchcheri: By a notary deed of 17 April 1943 one Thiruvenkidattapillai of Kottuchcheri is known to have endowed some lands, the income of which was meant for the maintenance of the Thiruvenkidattapillai Samadhi as well as the thottam and a bajana madam located in the thottam. This endowment was recognised by the arrêté of 12 August 1943.

Given below are details of some of the muslim endowments in the Territory:

Kader Beebee Charitable Endowment, Karaikal: By virtue of a testament dated 8 July 1942, Kader Beebee of Karaikal endowed her house in the town to be utilised as a place for teaching Koran and for offering prayers. For the maintenance of the above institution, she endowed some paddy lands situated at Kovilpattu and also some shares in the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company Limited, Calcutta, valued at about Rs. 3,000 with an annual income of more than two hundred rupees then.

Al Madjid Ol Madourasattoulillahill Maougoubadanillil Maoussoulimin Vagoub Pienna, Mougamadou Bavasaibou Marecar, Grand' Aldée, Karaikal: One Muhammad Bavasaibou Marecar of Thirumalarajanpattinam instituted an endowment under the above name by virtue of his testament of 5 March 1929. He endowed some of his properties in favour of this endowment in order to teach Arabic and Hindi to muslim children and also to carry on several other charitable activities like poor feeding, etc.

A three-member board of trustees was also appointed to carry on the management of these properties. The board was required to construct a building at a cost of Rs. 20,000 within a period of four years which was later on to be added to the endowment. On completion of the building, the management of the institution was to be transferred to the board of trustees constituted for the management of the mosque in Grand' Aldée. However it was completed only in 1942 by the three-member board of trustees and was handed over to the board of trustees of the mosque. The endowment was duly recognised by the government by the arrêté of 31 August 1931.

Naina Muhammad Rowthar Charitable Endowment, Tirunallar: By virtue of a testament dated 30 July 1906, Naina Muhammad Rowthar of Tirunallar created an oratory in Tirunallar to offer prayers and to provide food for fakirs. He further endowed some landed properties at Suprayapuram for the maintenance of this endowment. It was enjoined that the income should be utilised for feeding fakirs every day, particularly the large number of fakirs who used to come to Karaikal to attend the Kandoori festival. The endowment recognised by the government as per the arrêté of 9 June 1945 was administered by himself during his lifetime and by his nominees after his death.

Allapitchai Chatiram, Pudutturai, Karaikal: By virtue of a testament dated 11 January 1878, Allapitchai Ravouttar of Pudutturai founded the Allapitchai Chatiram. He donated a piece of land wherein the choultry together with a pond was established in 1879. By another notary deed of 3 February 1897, he endowed some paddy lands not only for the maintenance of the said choultry but also to feed poor people on the 27 day of Ramzan.

Up to 1933 the endowment was not recognised by the government. In 1933, Sayed Muhammad Ravouttar, the then trustee, applied for government approval. In the meantime, some descendants of the philanthropist claimed the properties and filed a writ in the court which rejected their claim by authorising the running of the charitable institution. The subsequent developments are not known.

Imam Sahib (Mousaffarcane) Endowment: One Imam Sahib by virtue of his testament of 10 January 1930, is known to have endowed some immovaable properties situated in rue de la Compagnie and rue St. Louis, Pondicherry, in favour of Mousaffarcane Mosque. The said endowment was approved by the arrêté of 10 January 1954.

Other Endowments: One Abdul Majid Khan of Pondicherry had created a Wakf on 27 September 1909 with some properties for running a school named Madrasa E. Ahsam at Mohamadia Mosque, Pondicherry. The wakf properties consisted of a coconut grove at Uppalam (Savariarpet) and a plot of land at Milad Street. Another plot of land with several shops at the junction of the Mahatma Gandhi Road and Yanam Venkatachala Pillai Street is also reported to be a wakf property managed by a muslim family. It is likely that there are several more such endowments although not very conspicuous. The Ajumunnisa Waqf, Rajia Sultana Waqf, Badrujehan Waqf and H.M.J.H.Z.B. Charitable Trust and Heritier de Mabdhoubacha Packiry et Said Abdul Gaffoor (Sunni Wakf) are some of the endowments in Pondicherry. Another at Vanjiyur is known as D.S. Mastan Charitable Endowment.

### Mutts:

Sri Padhapujai Ambalathadum Swamigal Madam, Pondicherry: Sri Padha-Swamiga! Madam situated at Ambalathadayar pujai Ambalathadum Madam Street, Pondicherry, is about three hundred years old while its branch at Chidambaram is said to belong to the VIII century A.D.53 It appears that the head of the mutt along with the panchaloka icon of Saint Manikavasakar and the silver casket containing the original manuscript of Thiruvachagam came from Chidambaram and settled at Pondicherry almost three hundred years ago because of the political turmoil prevailing at that time around Chidambaram. In course of time, Pondicherry became the headquarters of the mutt with as many as 24 branches. 54

Srilasri Tirunavukkarasu Swamigal is the present head of the madam. Efforts have been made in recent times to restore the ancient glory of the madam. The Manikavasakar Mandram attached to the madam strives to spread the bhakti cult and promotes interest in religious literature through lectures and discourses. The mandram arranges the Thirupavai Thiruvembavai Conference every year besides celebrating the festival of Saint Manikavasagar. Songs of 'Thevaram' and 'Thiruppughaz' are taught to children through the 'Samarasa Sanmarga Isai Mandram' which functions from the premises of the same madam.

Nalvar Madam, Pondicherry: This madam was founded by one Shri S. Krishna Iyer, a recluse, in 1915. The site where the madam is located at present in Perumalkoil street was bought by the said founder as per notary deed dated 4 November 1915. Another piece of land was bought at Pirivupalaiyam village in Bahur Commune in the name of the above madam. Subsequently he issued an appeal to the general public for funds to erect a building on the site purchased by him for the madam and to instal there the pictures of the sixty-three Nayanmars (Saivite Saints). The founder expired on 18 April 1920 leaving his property and savings without any will. The government then assumed control and handed over the mutt together with the plot of land to be administered by a single member-committee. The arrêté of 31 August 1926 approved the mutt.

Sri Dharmasivacharia Mutt, Pondicherry: Properties of the said mutt include (1) the Ayira Vysia Kula Chetty choultry situated at 33, Ambalathadayar Madam Street, Pondicherry, (2) The Tanappa Chettiar choultry and garden in Muttiyalupettai and (3) one kany of wet land at Manaveli village in Villiyanur Commune.

The income derived from the above said properties was meant to be utilised for celebrating two important festivals every year in Kalatheeswaran temple and Varadarajaperumal temple at Pondicherry. At present the choultry at Ambalathadayar Madam is let out on a nominal rent for marriage celebrations.

Sri Sringeri Sivaganga Madam, Ellupillaichavadi: The Sringeri Sivaganga Madam at Ellupillaichavadi is a branch of Sri Sringeri Mutt, Sringeri. Several properties have been endowed in favour of this madam. One Ipour Sivakamasundarammal donated some lands in Tondamanattam as per the notary deed of 14 February 1949. Some lands in Ellupillaichavadi were donated by Calvé Subbraya Chettiar under the notary deed of 11 May 1953. As per notary deed of 5 October 1968, some lands in Tondamanattam, Villiyanur Commune, were donated by one Ipour Radhakrishna Chettiar for this madam.

Kalvi Madam, Villiyanur: This madam is said to have been built more than three centuries ago i.e., in the year 1563 of Salivahana era corresponding to 1641 A.D. by Mallikarjuna Deva Maharaya, a ruler of Vijayanagar. Situated in South Car Street, Villiyanur, the madam consisted of a sanctuary of

Ekambareswarar, a sabha mantapam, some private rooms and a choultry for disribution of meals during festivals. There is also a garden attached to it. Till 1952, this mutt appears to have been managed and run by a succession of madathipathis who assumed the title of Meygnana Mamuni Desikar. It appears to have been established for the purpose of giving religious instruction to members of all communities. This madam is said to be a branch of the Tiruvakkarai madam in Tindivanam Taluk.

Vaishnava Naidu Marabinar (Kavarai) Madam, Villiyanur: This madam belongs to the community of Vaishnava Naidus in Villiyanur. The madam owned some lands and the income therefrom was meant to be utilised for performing puja in the Vaishnava temple at Villiyanur and for the celebration of festivals like Ramanavami, Udayavar Urtchavam and Manavala Mamuni Urtchavam. The madam which is registered under the Societies Registration Act is administered by a board of trustees.

Salavai Thozhilalar Madam, Kanuvapet, Villiyanur: This madam belongs to the washermen community. Four shop premises are also registered in the name of this madam.

Vettilai Madam, Villiyanur: This madam is said to have been established by the inhabitants of Saram in Ozhukarai Commune. They had also endowed some paddy lands for the maintenance of the said madam. Rice gruel is distributed to the poor on the ratha urtchavam day at Thirukameswarar Gokilambal temple every year. The income is also utilised for the celebration of Tepall Urtchavam the next day. The government is vested with power to nominate the board of trustees to manage the affairs of this madam.

Manonmani Madam, Kolakudi: Sri Arunachala Naicker, a mirasdar, endowed some of his landed properties in Kolakudi for this madam by the notary deed of 30 May 1883. He had willed that the income from the properties should be utilised for feeding wandering mendicants calling at the madam. This madam has not been approved by law.

Other mutts: Apart from those mentioned above several more madams are known to exist in towns and villages. The Directorate of Pilot Research Project had identified as many as fifteen mutts in Pondicherry region, alone, viz., Venkatachalapathy mutt at Tiruvalluvarnagar, Vallalar mutts at Ariyankuppam,

Mudaliyarpettai, Tiruvandarkovil and Ariyur, Sidhananda Swamigal mutt at Karuvadikkuppam, Kambali Paradesi mutt at Pakkamudiyanpet, Bajanai mutts at Pakkamudiyanpet, Karaiyamputtur and Pinnachchikuppam, Agathiar mutt at Kirapalaiyam, Anjaneyar mutt at Muttiyalupettai and Akkaparadesi mutt at Vaithikuppam.55

In Karaikal region too, the existence of many more mutts is evidenced by records, viz. Kumarasamy madam at Oduturai, Bajanai madam at Kottuchcheri, Rama Bajanai madam at Tirumalarajanpattinam and Rangayyasami madam at Vanjiyur. One Kuppussamy Mudaliar of Grand' Aldée had even endowed some properties for the purpose of distributing rice to the handicapped in Rangayya madam at Vanjiyur.

#### Choultries:

Vannouvar Chathirum, Chevarapet: The Vannouvar chathirum belongs to the Vannouva community. The members of this community are allowed to conduct funeral ceremonies there. A parcel of land bearing survey No. 82 (old) in Saram was endowed in favour of this choultry where members of the Vannouvar community were allowed to conduct funeral ceremonies.

Tavalakuppam Choultry, Ariyankuppam: This choultry is said to have been started by the ancestors of one Pavadaichetty of Porto Novo in order to provide shelter and food for the travelling public. Lands measuring about forty kanys are known to have been endowed in favour of this choultry for carrying out the above functions. It is not known whether this endowment had been approved by the government or not. However according to some old records, the choultry is understood to have been taken over by the administration and its properties leased out through public auction.

Nagamuthu Chettiar Choultry, Kirumambakkam, Bahur: This choultry otherwise known as Kalichi Nagamuthu chathiram is said to have been built by one Nagamuthu Chetty more than one hundred years ago. Some lands seem to have been endowed for this choultry. Probably the administration also had granted some lands in 1844 to this choultry. As the lands were not properly utilised, the administration is understood to have resumed the lands. This choultry was authorised by the Ordinance (No. 706) of 21 December 1844 promulgated by the arrêté of 24 February 1845.

Kunichamppattu Parassouramachetty Agraharam, Ramakrishnanagar: This agraharam, otherwise known as Kunichampattu Parassouramachetty choultry, consisted of about 20 small houses constructed about a century ago. For many years some brahmin families were allowed to stay here without rent. In 1935 the administrator of the choultry is understood to have demanded rent for the houses to carry out repairs. When the matter was brought to the notice of the government in 1943 it decided not to interfere in the dispute.

Sri Muthurangachetty Annadhana Chathiram, Chevarapet: This choultry together with the temple formed part of a religious and charitable endowment founded in the name of Sri Muthurangachetty by his three sons viz., Muthu Seshasala Chettiar, Varadarajalu Chettiar and Raghava Chettiar in 1876. The endowment consisted of seventeen plots of dry and wet lands in Sarampakkam, two salt pans and four shops (three in Valdavur Road and one in Prison Street, Olandai village) besides four shops and one terraced house at 32, Thambunaicker Street, all valued at Rs. 20,000 in the year 1880. According to the notary deed of 17 July 1880 the management of the charity and various charitable and religious duties were to be performed with the income derived from the properties. This endowment did not enjoy government recognition.

Chinnapillai Chathiram, Karaikal: More than a century ago one Shri Chinnapillai is known to have built a choultry at Karaikal alongside Tirunallar road. The income from the property attached to the choultry was meant for paying the priest performing puja to Lord Selvaganapathi installed inside the choultry. The present fate of the choultry is not known.

Pranambalammal Choultry, Tirunallar: One Pranambalammal of Karaikal was authorised by the arrêté of 13 January 1888 to built a choultry to be eventually named after her on her land in Tirunallar alongside Kandankudy road. Subsequently by the notary deed of 28 September 1888, she endowed her lands (wet as well as dry) measuring approximately 10 velys situated at Suprayapuram village in Tirunallar Commune in favour of this choultry. She enjoined that the income from these lands should be utilised for the maintenance of the choultry and for serving boiled rice to six brahmins and mendicants every day. The present fate of the choultry is not known.

Peralam Mudaliar Choultry, Tirunallar: The existence of a choultry called 'Peralam Mudaliar Chathiram' at Tirunallar established by one Namatchivaya Mudaliar, is also evident from records.

Ramalingampillai and Ramassamypillai Choultry, Grand 'Aldée: The aforesaid persons had endowed their immovable property in Gerudapalayam Street to be converted into a choultry. This act of charity was authorised by the administration as per the arrêté of 9 July 1885.

Other choultries: Apart from those mentioned above, several more choultries are known to exist in the Territory. Mention may be made of one Krishnasamypillai choultry in West Boulevard. The Kuppussamy choultry is located in Mahatma Gandhi Road. There are a few more choultries, one for Vaniars and Chettiars, another for Weavers and a third for 'Souraires' (toddy tappers). The last one is said to be specially meant for celebrating marriages. The Datchinamoorthy Chettiar choultry is located in Iswarankoil Street. Marriages and meetings are held here.56 There is another chavadi Pillaichavadi. Muttiyalupettai may lay named after Thiruvengadampillai in claim to Muthulinga Seshachala Chettiar choultry. The Murungappakkam chavadi is named after Nadou Chidambara Mudaliar, father of the more famous Nadou Chanemouga Velayouda Moudeliar. As per the arrêté of 3 October 1939 some parcels of lands given to the choultries at Tavalakuppam, Virampattinam and Kirumambakkam were taken back by the administration. This order confirms the existence of choultries in all these places. Names such as Ellupillaichavadi, Pillaichavadi Tattanchavadi. (near Chinna Kalapet), Pavazhakaranchavady (Reddiyarpalaiyam) seem to indicate that there must have been chavadies in all these localities in bygone days.

According to a survey carried out by the Directorate of Pilot Research Project in 1972, there were in Villiyanur as many as eighteen choultries belonging to eighteen different castes. Almost all of them appeared to be under private use. The government used to appoint board of trustees for the administration of these choultries (as in the case of Vanniar choultry in Villiyanur). The Vannouva choultry in Villiyanur was under the management of a Committee constituted by the government for running the Govindassamy Chettiar Endowment in Villiyanur. The ruins of Ammal Chathiram can be seen even today on the outskirts of Karaikal town. Many a choultry as well as properties endowed in favour of these choultries have gone out of trace in the course of the last many years.

# V. Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board, Pondicherry

The State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board, Pondicherry was constituted on 13 July 1965 to deal with matters connected with serving and ex-service personnel of the armed forces, their families and dependents and the families and dependents of deceased ex-service personnel. The State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board redesignated as Rajya Sainik Board, Pondicherry in 1976 functions under the patronage of the Lieutenant-Governor of Pondicherry. There are ten official and seven non-official members in the Board.

The expenditure of the Board is met out of the contributions made by the Centre and the Pondicherry Administration. The Employment Officer, Pondicherry is the Honorary Secretary of the S.S.A. Board. The Board originally operated two funds, i.e. the Pondicherry Ex-Service Personnel Benevolent Fund and the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen. These two funds were subsequently amalgamated and came to be known as the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen.

The following categories of financial assistance are extended from the funds:

- 1. Immediate grant of relief for cases requiring spot assistance.
- 2. Pocket money for ex-service T.B. and leprosy patients.
- 3. Transport charges for ex-service T.B. and leprosy patients.
- 4. Lumpsum free grants for disabled ex-servicemen to do some small business.
- 5. Short-term loans for employed ex-servicemen.
- 6. Cash relief for the settlement of families and dependants of jawans killed or wounded or missing in action.
- 7. Cash grants for indigent children of deceased personnel towards payment of examination and special fees.

- 8. Short-term loans for unemployed ex-servicemen to do business.
- 9. Stipend for the children and dependents of serving personnel to undergo training in Industrial Training Institutes.
- 10. Stipend for ex-service personnel to undergo training in Industrial Training Institutes.
- 11. Loan for starting business on a co-operative basis.
- 12. Financial assistance for the marriage of daughters of ex-servicemen and of those killed in action.
- 13. Stipend for ex-servicemen/children and dependents of ex-servicemen/children and dependents of serving personnel to undergo teacher training in any recognised institution.
- 14. Reimbursement of full fee charges collected by any technical institution for undergoing training in typewriting, shorthand, book-keeping etc. in respect of children of ex-servicemen and dependents.
- Book allowance to children of ex-servicemen studying in Pre-University classes, degree classes, post-graduate classes and doing professional courses.
- 16. Financial assistance for the purchase of spectacles, artificial dentures and hearing aids.
- 17. Financial assistance to widows/dependents of ex-servicemen to meet the funeral expenses of ex-servicemen.

A statement showing the different categories of financial assistance extended by the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board and the number of beneficiaries for the period 1970 to 1975 is given below:

	Nature of grant (2)	1970		1973		1975	
Sl. No. (1)		No. of benefi- ciaries (3)	Amount (4)	No. of benefi- ciaries (5)	Amount (6)	No. of benefi- ciaries (7)	Amount
1.	Short-term loan to em-		Rs. P		Rs. P.		Rs. P.
	ployed Ex-servicemen	44	13,872.00	0 42	18,260.00	13	6,280.00
2.	Short-term loan to un-						
	employed Ex-servicemen	8	3,400.00	11	5,000.00	10	4,300.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
			Rs. P.		Rs. P.	·	Rs. P.
3. L	umpsum free grant	1	200.00	6	1,800.00	3	375.00
4. M	arriage grant		_	4	1,200.00	12	3,438.02
ct of	ipend to Ex-servicemen nildren and dependents ex-servicemen/serving ersonnel undergoing						
-	eacher Training Course			1	304.52	3	253.16
in	nmediate grant of relief cases requiring spot			24	159.20	15	104.89
ch in ch E tr	eimbursement of fees narged by the technical stitution in respect of nildren/dependents of x-servicemen undergoing aining in typewriting,		भूभी ( ं (दे) यमेन जयते				
	northand, book-keeping, c	_	_	2	44.00	22	193.00
8. <b>B</b>	ook allowance	_	_	_	<del></del>	2	102.05
	inancial assistance for ne purchase of spectacles,						
				_		5	135.65
	inancial assistance for ineral expenses	_	_	_	_	1	50.00

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## CHAPTER—XVIII

# PUBLIC LIFE AND SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

## I. Political parties and organisations

Soon after merger, the political situation in the establishments became very fluid giving rise to new alignments and adjustments among political factions. The Congress High Command deputed Mahesh Saran as the Special Representative of the A.I.C.C. to Pondicherry in January 1955 to hold discussions with local Congress leaders in an attempt to strengthen its political base here. The suggestion to form an ad hoc committee to take into it representatives from various parties as were willing to join it was accepted. The admission of some political leaders into the Congress was however resented by the Pondicherry National Congress headed by R. Sellane Nayagar. Later, when an ad hoc Committee was formed with sub-committees in different communes to carry on the election campaign, the move was criticised by the Pondicherry National Congress. The Pondicherry National Congress charged that some of the members of the ad hoc committee had no popular support on account of their having actually worked to sabotage the liberation movement in the past. 2

In May 1955, K. Kamaraj, the then Chief Minister of Madras made another attempt to bring the Pondicherry National Congress leaders into the Congress organisation. It looked as if a compromise would be reached. A five-member Congress Election Committee with R. Sellane Nayagar as chairman was set up to select candidates for the Assembly and Municipal elections. But all attempts to bring about unity between the two factions turned abortive, as the Pondicherry National Congress decided to contest the elections independently. It came up with a 14-point programme which, among other things, pledged to maintain the individuality of the establishments and retain French as the official language.

In the meanwhile, as part of another development, more than 500 delegates representing different political views decided to form a front called 'Makkal Munnani' (People's Front), on the basis of a common programme to fight the Congress. The Communist Party was the chief constituent of the People's Front. 4

Prior to merger, elections to all elected bodies, viz. to the Conseil Municipal and Assemblée Représentative or to the French Parliament, used to be held under the auspices of the municipal administration. Soon after merger, the Election Commission of India was charged with the responsibility of holding the elections in accordance with the provisions of the State of Pondicherry (Representation of the People) Order, 1955 framed on the pattern of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 as in force in the rest of India.5 As sovereignty still vested with the French Government, French citizens in Pondicherry were also allowed to vote in the elections.

Representative Assembly Elections (July 1955): The Congress which had put up its candidates for all the 39 seats bagged twenty seats, the People's Front secured sixteen seats and the Independents three. The Pondicherry National Congress which contested 19 seats was totally routed. Shortly after the elections, an Independent member from Mahe and another from Karaikal, and a member elected on the People's Front ticket joined the Congress.6 R.M.A.S. Paquirissamyppoullé who was elected leader of the Congress Party became the Chief Counsellor. The other members of the Conseil du Gouvernement were Edouard Goubert, Thiyagarajan Naicker, Chandrasekara Chettiar, Mohamed Youssouf and S. Datchanamourthy Modeliar.7

In the Municipal Elections, the Congress secured 97 out of 200 seats, People's Front won 66, National Congress 14, Agricultural Congress two, Depressed Classes League one, Fishermen's Association two, Mahajana Sabha (Mahe) two and Independents 16. While the Congress secured an absolute majority in nine out of 16 Municipal Councils, the People's Front gained control over four Municipal Councils, all in Pondicherry region including that of Pondicherry town where it captured 12 out of 18 seats. All the seats of Mudaliyarpettai Municipal Council were captured by the People's Front. In Nedungadu Council, the Congress and the People's Front secured five seats each while two went to Independents. In the Mannadipattu Municipal Council no party gained an absolute majority as the Congress could secure only three seats,

the People's Front and the Pondicherry National Congress four seats each. One Independent was also returned. In Yanam, there was no polling as there were only 12 nominations for all the 12 seats, all of them going to the Congress. In Mahe the Congress annexed five seats, Independents five and the Mahajana Sabha two.

The period between 1956 and 1958 turned out to be very critical for the Congress. The sudden death of R.M.A.S. Paquirissamyppoullé on 13 January 1956 came as a signal for trouble. In his place E. Goubert was elected leader of the Congress Party on 20 April, and he became the Chief Counsellor. As a sequel to this, four Congress members crossed the floor in April 1956 and joined the opposition to function as a separate block. This reduced the strength of the Congress Party in the Assembly to 20 in a house of 39 where the People's Front held 15 seats.8 Subsequently, the President of the Assembly also left the Congress reducing further its strength to 19. However, shortly after two opposition members joined the Congress raising its strength to 21. One of them became a Counsellor.9 In response to an appeal made by E. Goubert in March 1956, a sizable number of members from the Pondicherry National Congress joined the mainstream. One group of the Congress legislators headed by the Chief Counsellor and the Convenor of the District Congress Committee, resented interference of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee in the affairs of the Pondicherry Congress. On 11 May 1956 they raised the issue of affiliating the Pondicherry Congress directly to the A.I.C.C. instead of being treated as subordinate to the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee.10 Viewing the situation here, the Indian Express commented: "How difficult it is for politicians in a certain tradition to adapt themselves to a new set-up is proved by recent events in Pondicherry. It is not allegiance to a party and faith in a programme, but personal and group loyalties that still dominate politics in the former French settlement." The resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee under the Presidentship of Kamaraj for the merger of the former French establishments with Madras aroused resentment in Pondicherry,11 Even the D.M.K. supported the merger move, 12 The political situation worsened so much that in October 1958 the Representative Assembly had to be dissolved leading to the rule of the Chief Commissioner 'for lack of cohesion and stability due to internal misunderstandings and personal rivalries.'13

Representative Assembly Elections (August 1959): The State of Pondicherry (Representation of the People) Order, 1955 was amended on 29 November 1958 to provide for a complete revision of the electoral rolls with 1 December 1958

as the crucial date. A minor amendment was also carried out touching on the disqualification of members. The amendments were duly incorporated in the State of Pondicherry (Representation of the People) Amendment Order, 1959.14

The revision of electoral rolls brought about an increase of 21,265 electors in the territory. The comparative statement of the electors region-wise in 1951, 1955 and 1959 furnished below will clearly show the marked improvement of popular interest in the elections.15

ni		Number of electors in				
Region		1951	1955	1959		
Pondicherry	6	69,649	1,14,401	1,30,283		
Karaikal		27,082	41,275	45,690		
Mahe	••	5,588	8,734	9,162		
Yanam	/	1,662	3,587	4,127		
Total		1,03,981	1,67,997	1,89,262		

By now the political alignments had become more stabilised, although individuals came to count more than policies and programmes. In all, as many as 247 filed their nominations for 39 seats as compared to 137 in 1955 (3 seats being left uncontested). After withdrawals, 167 candidates were left in the field, out of whom 66 candidates did not belong to any party and the remaining 101 were divided among the Congress, People's Front, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Praja Socialist Party. The territory went to the polls to elect 39 members to the Representative Assembly (22 from Pondicherry, 12 from Karaikal, three from Mahe and two from Yanam). In all 21 Congressmen, 13 from the People's Front, one from the Praja Socialist Party and four Independents were declared elected. Out of 167 contesting candidates, as many as 84 forfeited their deposit. The elections turned out to be practically a straight fight between the Congress and the People's Front. The results of the elections held in August 1959 thus clearly established the position

of the Congress and the People's Front. Even though the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam failed to secure even a single seat out of 27 contested, it made its presence felt. In all 25 out of the 27 Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam candidates lost their security deposit. The Praja Socialist Party candidate was elected in Mahe where the Congress and the Muslim League had not put up a rival candidate.

The Representative Assembly met on 5 September 1959. A six-member Conseil du Gouvernement consisting of V. Venkatasubba Reddiar was elected by the Assemblée Représentative at its sitting on 9 September 1959. In September 1960 a reshuffle of the Conseil du Gouvernement headed by V. Venkatasubba Reddiar was demanded by a majority of the Congress members on the ground that such a promise was made at the time of the formation of the government. The tacit understanding appears to have been that all the 21 members of the Congress party should by rotation become Counsellors for a period of 18 months each. 16 In spite of such occasional rumblings, the government remained intact. In the two bye-elections held in the constituencies of Kalapet and Karaikal (South), the Congress came out successful. The election in the Karaikal constituency was necessitated following the death of Prosper Kulandai.

The term of office of the Municipal Council members elected in 1955 having expired by July 1961, Commissions were formed in all the communes to carry on the work during the interim period until fresh elections were held. The revision of electoral rolls in 1961, showed an increase of 7,957 electors.

Name of regi	ion.			Elect	Percentage of increase		
Name of region				1959	1961	over 1959	
Pondicherry	••	••	••	1,30,283	1,45,174	11.43	
Karaikal				45,690	45,290	(-)0.88	
Mahe				9,162	9,708	5.96	
Yanam				4,127	4,141	0.34	
Total				1,89,262	2,04,313	7.95	

In all 586 nominations were filed as compared to 617 in 1955. Out of this, only 397 candidates contested for 171 seats as against 471 for the same number of seats in 1955. The elections were held on 23 and 25 October 1961, which, except for some minor incidents here and there, were peaceful and smooth. In all, the Congress bagged 129 seats and the People's Front 31 seats. Two seats in Mahe were won by the Praja Socialist Party. Independents secured 38 seats. The Congress had improved its position considerably. It gained an absolute majority in 10 out of 16 communes i.e. in Pondicherry, Ariyankuppam, Villiyanur, Nettappakkam, Karaikal, Tirunallar, Tirumalarajan-pattinam, Nedungadu, Kottuchcheri and Mahe Communes. The People's Front retained its hold over Mudaliyarpettai. The Congress held six seats each in Mannadipattu, Bahur, Niravi and Yanam Communes and only five seats in Ozhukarai.

The Representative Assembly held its last session in March 1963 because of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 which came into force on 1 July 1963 providing for a full-fledged Legislative Assembly with 30 members to be chosen by direct election. The Act provided for a Council of Ministers. Simultaneously under the same Act, the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 became applicable for the elections to the Pondicherry Legislative Assembly. By virtue of section 51(1)(c) of the Government of Union Territories Act, the members of the then Representative Assembly were deemed to have been elected to the Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry and its term was fixed to expire on 24 August 1964.

In 1963 the Congress legislators met to elect the leader of the legislature party. R. Venkatraman, then Minister of Industries, Government of Madras was deputed by the Congress High Command to be present as its observer at the meeting. V. Venkatasubba Reddiar, Counsellor for P.W.D. and Electricity proposed the name of E. Goubert, which was seconded by P.C. Purushothama Reddiar. A six-member Ministry headed by E. Goubert assumed office on I July 1963. The other members of his Cabinet were V. Venkatasubba Reddiar, K.M. Gurussamy Pillai, Mohammed Ismail Maricar, M.K. Jeevarathina Odayar and V.M.C. Varadapillai. The Representative Assembly met as the Legislative Assembly for the first time on 20 July 1963. Sri Sayaji Laxman Silam assumed charge as the first Lieutenant-Governor on 14 October 1963.

Rajya Sabha Election (July 1963): Under the Constitution (Fourteenth Amendment) Act, 1962, the territory was allotted one seat in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha). The members of the Legislative Assembly constituted the electoral college. In the election held on 23 July 1963, a sitting Congress M.L.A. was elected to the Rajya Sabha defeating his rival candidate (another sitting M.L.A.) by a majority of thirteen votes.

Lok Sabha Election (October 1963): Under section 40 of the Government of the Union Territories Act, 1963, a seat was allotted for the territory in the Lok Sabha. The election to fill this seat was held on 4 October 1963 only after the revision of electoral rolls in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951. The Congres candidate was declared elected defeating his People's Front rival and an Independent candidate.

The bye-election for the three assembly seats of Muttiyalupettai, Kurichchikuppam and Ariyankuppam constituencies was held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha election.17 In all the three constituencies, Congress candidates defeated their rivals, two belonging to the People's Front, and an Independent.

Assembly Elections (August 1964): As the term of the Legislative Assembly was due to expire on 24 August 1964 a fresh delimitation of the constituencies as per the Delimitation Commission Act, 1962 became imperative. The Delimitation Commission under the chairmanship of J.L. Kapur, divided the Territory into 30 single-member constituencies. Regionwise, Yanam was allotted one seat, Mahe two, Karaikal seven and Pondicherry twenty. One seat in Karaikal and four in Pondicherry were reserved for scheduled caste candidates.

The differences among Congress leaders came to the surface when the question of selection of candidates for the assembly election came up for consideration. There was suspicion that some of the Congress members were trying to form an electoral alliance with the Communist Party.18 Thanks to the efforts of R. Venkatraman, Special Representative of the Congress Parliamentary Board, the dissident leaders veered round to work in unison for the Congress.19

The elections for the Legislative Assembly were held on 23 August 1964. The Congress secured an absolute majority having won 22 seats out of the thirty. The People's Front secured four and Independents four. A four-member Congress Government headed by V. Venkatasubba Reddiar assumed office on 11 September 1964, and the Assembly met on 19 September 1964.

Lok Sabha Election (February 1967): An intensive revision of the electoral rolls was undertaken in 1966 and a summary revision in the year 1967. After the intensive revision, election to the Lok Sabha was held in February 1967.20 The Congress candidate was elected having polled 63,286 votes as against the People's Front which secured 42,725 votes. An Independent candidate mustered 52,861 votes.

Now to revert to the political developments in Pondicherry, the Congress Government was stable till almost the beginning of 1967 when rumblings started, followed by defections. On 18 March 1967 seven members of the Congress legislature party including the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister resigned. The strength of the Congress in the Assembly came down to 13 from 20. The Congress Government resigned on 20 March 1967.

In another quick development, the Speaker of the Assembly was elected leader of the Congress Legislature Party. A five-member Congress Ministry headed by him was sworn in on 9 April 1967. This government did not last even for a full year. This was succeeded by a new five-member Congress Ministry headed by V. Venkatasubba Reddiar on 6 March 1968. Even this Ministry had a very precarious existence. Floor-crossings continued till September 1968 giving rise to a nebulous political situation which culminated in the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly on 18 September 1968. The administration was taken over by the President under the Order of 18 September 1968.

The term of the municipal councils in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam expired on 26 October 1967 and that of Mahe on 25 October 1967 and elections fell due. The D.M.K.-C.P.I. Front put up a 10-point programme the salient features of which were clean administration, special measures for public hygiene, housing facilities for the down-trodden, beautification of the town, drinking water facilities, etc. The elections were held on 16 December 1968 as programmed.

The special feature of the election was that for the first time in the annals of the civic administration in the Territory, proportionate representation was given to the scheduled castes through reservation of seats in the municipal councils.

As per the Pondicherry Municipal Councils (Election) Act, 1966 brought into force with effect from 2 February 1966, there were 163 general wards and 37 reserved wards. Out of 200 constituencies, as many as 191 went to the polls on 16 December 1968. The other nine constituencies returned their candidates unopposed.<sup>22</sup> The Congress which sponsored its candidates for 194 seats, secured only 84 seats, including five unopposed, compared to the 129 seats (including 2 unopposed) in 1961 reflecting a marked set-back.

Assembly Elections (March 1969): In order to facilitate the setting up of a popular government, elections for the Assembly were held in March 1969, i.e. six months ahead of the normal General Election. Although the Congress had put up its candidates in all the 30 constituencies, only 10 were returned. The D.M.K. which had put up candidates in 19 constituencies saw 15 of its candidates come out successful. The Communist Party, which contested the elections on its own banner for the first time, won three seats out of the seven contested. As against the 2 Independent candidates only two were returned, one each from Mahe and Yanam. The 1969 elections also came as a set-back for the Congress. As against 22 seats won in 1964 including one unopposed return, the party could secure only 10 seats now.

A five-member Coalition Ministry headed by M.O.H. Farook was sworn in on 17 March 1969. The Communist Party agreed to join the government on the basis of a 14-point programme. 23 V. Subbiah joined the government as Minister for Health.

Rajya Sabha Election (July 1969): The six-year term of the Rajya Sabha member elected in 1963 having expired, the members of the newly constituted assembly elected the candidate sponsored by the D.M.K. to the Rajya Sabha in the election held on 25 July 1969.

The split in the Congress Party in 1970 had its repercussions in Pondicherry as well. Six out of the ten Congress members formed the Congress (R) group while four remained in Congress (O). In March 1970, one Congress (O) member joined the Congress (R) raising its strength to seven.

Lok Sabha Election (March 1971): The Congress (Organisation) and Congress (R) nominated T. N. Sethuraman (the sitting member) and S. Mohan Kumaramangalam respectively as their party candidates. The D.M.K. and the

Communist Party supported the Congress (R) candidate. In the election held on 4 March 1971, the Congress (R) candidate was declared elected. He polled 1,12,714 votes (65.1 per cent.) as against 47,550 votes (27.5 per cent.) secured by his rival.

By election (March 1972): Altogether the political situation continued to remain unstable. In October 1971, one Congress (R) member defected to the D.M.K. raising its strength to 16. The Supreme Court's verdict in February 1972 setting aside the election of the D.M.K. member from the Ariyankuppam constituency necessitated the holding of a fresh election in the constituency to elect another member. Ariyankuppam thus turned out to be the testing ground for the various political parties to prove their respective political strength.

The D.M.K. and the Congress (R) were pitched in a straight contest. The Congress (O) decided to throw its weight in favour of Congress (R). In the election held on 11 March 1972, the Congress (R) candidate was declared elected having secured 4,833 votes as against 3,562 polled by his rival.

In another development, the Independent member from Yanam joined the D.M.K. in March 1973 raising its strength to 16. A few days later i.e. on 23 March 1973 the C.P.I. member in the Coalition Government resigned from the Ministry.

The split in the D.M.K. in Tamil Nadu was the next important development which affected the political situation in Pondicherry. Shortly after the split in the Tamil Nadu D.M.K., two members of the Farook Ministry tendered their resignation and joined the A.D.M.K. The resignation of the C.P.I. member and the decision of two other ministers to join the A.D.M.K. led to the dissolution of the Assembly on 3 January 1974.

Assembly Elections (February 1974): With the splits in the Communist Party the Congress and the D.M.K., the mid-term election came to be contested by the Congress (R), Congress (O), D.M.K., A.D.M.K., C.P.I. and C.P.I. (Marxist) besides Independents. In the election held on 24 February 1974, the A.D.M.K. secured 12 seats, Congress (R) seven, Congress (O) five, D.M.K. two, C.P.I. two and Independent one. S. Ramasamy was elected leader of the A.D.M.K. legislature party, the largest in the assembly. He was called in to form the government. A four-member A.D.M.K. Ministry assumed office on 6 March 1974. V. Subbiah joined the Ministry on 21 March 1974 as its fifth member. On 27 March 1974, the Coalition Government was defeated by 15 votes to 14 in a division pressed by

the Congress and the D.M.K. on the Chief Minister's motion for a vote on account. After only 21 days in office, the A.D.M.K.-C.P.I. Coalition Government had to resign following its defeat. On 28 March 1974, the Fourth Assembly was dissolved and the Territory once again placed under the President's rule.

Lok Sabha Election (February 1974): Following the sudden death of the Lok Sabha member in an air crash in May 1973, a bye-election to the Pondicherry Parliamentary constituency was held to coincide with the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly on 24 February 1974.

Besides a few Independents, candidates representing the Congress, the D.M.K. and the Anna D.M.K. contested the election. The Anna D.M.K. candidate was declared elected, having secured 86,362 votes as against 74,244 votes polled by the Congress candidate.

Assembly Elections (June 1977): The elections for the fifth Legislative Assembly were ordered to be held on 14 June 1977. The A.I.A.D.M.K., the C.P.I., the D.M.K., the I.N.C. and the Janata Party contested the elections. The electors in the Territory in May 1977 were 3,07,208 forming 65.13 per cent of the total population of 4,71,707. In all, 131 candidates including five women from Pondicherry region and 20 Independents were in the field. Party-wise, the Janta Party fielded 28 candidates, I.N.C. 22, C.P.I. 8, D.M.K. 26 and the A.I.A.D.M.K. 27. Of them, seven of the Janata Party, two of the I.N.C., one of the C.P.I., three of the D.M.K., 14 of the A.I.A.D.M.K. and three Independents were duly elected.

A 2-member Council of Ministers headed by S. Ramassamy, Chief Minister took the oath of office on 2 July 1977. D. Ramachandran was the Home Minister. Following the resignation of the Home Minister and withdrawal of support by two AIADMK members, Chief Minister S. Ramassamy expanded his ministry on 9 October 1978 with the induction of four new Ministers. However, following a constitutional crisis, the Assembly was dissolved and the Territory was brought under President's rule on 12 November 1978.

Rajya Sabha Election (August 1977): On the expiry of the term of the Rajya Sabha member on 6 August 1975, the members of the newly constituted Assembly elected V. P. Munisamy, the candidate sponsored by the A. I. A. D. M. K. to the Rajya Sabha on 25 August 1977. He defeated N. Rajaram, the candidate sponsored by the Janata Party by 16 votes to 14.

General Elections (January 1980): The General Elections to the sixth Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha were ordered to be held on 3 January 1980. The Indian National Congress fielded 13 candidates, the INC (U) nine, Janata nine, C.P.I. seven, C.P.M. two, Janata (S) four, D.M.K. 15, AIADMK 18 besides the 55 Independents in the field. The Indian National Congress won 10 seats, Janata three, C.P.M. one, D.M.K. 14 and Independents two. P. Shanmugham of the Indian National Congress (I) was declared elected to the Lok Sabha on 8 January 1980. A coalition Government of D.M.K. and

Congress (I) headed by D. Ramachandran was sworn in on 16 January 1980. The other members of the cabinet included S. Savarirajan (Home Minister), G. Perumal Raja (Minister for Public Works), Renuka Appadurai (Minister for Education), V.M.C. Sivakumar (Minister for Agriculture) and V. Kadirvelu (Minister for Co-operation). M.O.H. Farook was elected as Speaker on 25 January 1980 and L. Joseph Mariadoss as Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on 29 January 1980.

## II. Newspapers and periodicals.

The destiny of the Fourth Estate being closely linked to that of the printing industry, it would be of some interest to explore the origin of printing before recounting the growth of periodicals and newspapers in the Territory. The popular contention that the first printing press in Pondicherry was established in 1816 does not seem to hold ground. In fact there are evidences to show that there was a press here as early as in the year 1778. Articles 36 and 37 of the Règlement de Police of 1778 prohibited the printing of certain types of material in the press without the approval of the Lieutenant de Police. 24 Contrary to the usual practice, the règlement in question referred to the press as a singular entity instead of referring to it in its plurality. This leads us to the conclusion that there must have been a press in Pondicherry then. According to a scholar\* this press is understood to have been set up at the time of Count Lally. If this were to be correct, then it must have been in existence here even before 1761. Although the fate of this press is not exactly known, it is understood to have been carried away to Madras soon after Pondicherry's capitulation in 1778 according to the same scholar.

Prior to this, important government orders, etc. were conveyed to the public through word of mouth by tom-tom from street to street. Handwritten bills were also pasted on the doors of the fort in different languages. Anandarangapillai tells us that an 'European on horse back, attended by the court accountant Azhagapillai, and a drummer, proclaimed, through each street and at the city gates, the order of the Council, copies of which had been exhibited on the 1 March at the court house, fort, town gates and the church. The European first read out the notice in French. Azhagapillai of the accountant caste, next explained the same in Tamil and finally the drum was beaten. The prohibition of the sale of brandy, toddy and other intoxicating liquors was notified in this fashion'.25

<sup>\*</sup> Gèrald Duverdier, Bibliothécaire au Collège de France.

The revolution in France created a new awakening among the people in the colonies. More and more people came to evince greater interest in the day to day activities of the government as well as public utility services like the Comité de Bienfaisance, Mont-de-Piété, Hospital, Léproserie, Prisons, Bazaar, etc. They were also increasingly concerned with the prospects of trade, commerce, agriculture and other avenues of livelihood. It was under these circumstances that the Government Press was established in 1816, chiefly for printing official documents and the various laws and regulations and notices of public utility services. Since 1823 important government ordinances and administrative appointments were published in what was then called the Archives Administratives des Etablissements Français de l'Inde. From 1828 onwards all laws, orders and decisions of the administration came to be published under the title of Bulletin des Actes Administratifs and copies of the Bulletin were made available to subscribers.\*26 Understandably the Bulletin carried information relating only to policies and decisions of the government, help reflect popular sentiments nor serve as a barometer of public opinion. The same year a Tamil printing section was added to the Government Press.27 An 'almanac' is understood to have been published at least some years before 1838, as evident from the preface to the 'almanac' of that year.28 It carried a list of all public servants in the establishments (Civil list) and other useful information. It was published by Constant Sicé up to 1842 and then by F.E. Sicé from 1850 up to 1856. From 1857, it came to be published by the government under the title of Annuaire des Etablissements Français dans l'Inde.

The year 1838 was a significant landmark, for it was on that year permission was first granted by the French Administration to C. Guerre, a Frenchman in Pondicherry to start a journal devoted to political, literary and commercial affairs. 29 He was himself the editor and publisher of the journal It was on the same year that authorisation was issued to Lachoumanen poullé, a Tamil teacher for starting a Tamil printing press, 30 and to one Vingatarayar to bring out a journal in Tamil under the title 'Soleil Indien' perhaps the first vernacular journal.31 Only two years thence was established the Mission Press attached to the Diocese of Pondicherry, through the initiative of Archbishop Bonnand. Father Dupuis who was placed in charge of the press, pioneered the publication of the works of Veeramamunivar. The fate of the two pioneering journals, i.e. the one started by Guerre and 'Soleil Indien' is not known.

<sup>\*</sup> The rate of subscription for the Bulletin was reduced in 1841, vide B.A.A. 1841, p. 161.

The next authorisation to start a private journal under the style of L'Impartial de Pondichéry was issued only after about eleven years i.e. in 1849 to one Brun. 32 The Moniteur Officiel des Etablissements Français dans l'Inde, started appearing from 1850. This journal seems to have appeared for almost 43 years i.e. up to 1893. While the order authorising the publication of 'Solell Indien' was brief and matter of fact, those authorising Guerre's journal and 1.' Impartial de Pondichéry significantly laid down a number of conditions as they were politically oriented. The editor and publisher were responsible to ensure that articles appearing in the journal did not violate the press and other established laws of the land. These journals were under obligation to publish free of cost all laws and regulations issued by the administration. Further it was required that soon after printing, one copy of the journal should be deposited in the Office of the Public Prosecutor. As regards the tariff rates to be charged for publication of court matter in the journal, the Procureur Général was declared competent to finalise them. At the request of Brun, the arrate of 14 August 1849 prescribed the tariff rates for publication of court notices in his journal 'L' Impartial'.33 When the publication of the journal was stopped in 1850, the advertisements were authorised to be published in 'Le Moniteur Officiel des Etablishments Français dans l'Inde' as per the arreté of 30 March 1850. 34

Since 1850 a number of private printing presses came to be established in the town. Between 1851 and 1874 authorisation was issued to not less than ten printing presses in Pondicherry. There were facilities for printing in Tamil in all the presses. Some enterprising printers also had provided facilities for carrying out printing operations in Telugu, English and Sanskrit as well.

The period that followed the proclamation of the Third Republic in France was more than eventful and served as a stimulant for the articulation of public opinion on important issues of the day. The growth of printing industry on the one hand and the constitution of Conseil Général and Conseils Locaux and the launching of local self-government in 1880 came as a boost to the Fourth Estate. The Pondicherry-Villupuram Railway which was opened for passenger traffic on 14 October 1879 brought news of the developments in India almost everyday. The décret of 21 September 1881 gave Indians the right to renounce their native personal law and be governed by the French Civil laws. The question of renonciation was the hottest topic discussed during this period. Mention may be made of the brochure 'Les Indigènes de 1'Inde Française et le suffrage universel' published by M.D. Moracchini in 1883. The

décret of 26 February 1884 changed the mode of election to the Conseils Locaux, the Conseil Général and the Municipalities. Voters were classified into three categories, viz. Europeans and their descendants, renonçants and non-renonçants. In British India, the Indian National Congress was launched in 1885. In 1888 Tilak who undertook a tour of South India to stimulate the yearning for freedom among the people, visited Pondicherry also and stayed at Thirumudi Nataraja Chettiar Choultry unnoticed for four days. On the fifth day prominent people of the town who recognised the visitor arranged for a public meeting and presented him with a copy of the French 'Code Penal et Code Civil' It was thus altogether a period of great awakening.

It was during this period that many journals dealing with social and political issues were started. Almost all of them carried pungent criticism of the voting system, the electoral lists, the representatives of the people, and even the bad condition of the roads. Even Governors and Mayors were not spared. Judged by modern standards some of the articles which appeared in these journals may be considered fearless, direct to the point and often vehemently critical of the administration. The press thus enjoyed some measure of freedom of expression.

In the course of the 50 years between 1850 and 1900, apart from 'Petit Bengali' which appeared from Chandernagore, a large number of periodicals appeared from Pondicherry or Karaikal viz. Commerce de Pondichéry (1855), Le Courrier de l'Inde Française (1872), Le Progrès de Karikal (1879), Le Progrès de l'Inde Française (1883), Satyabimani (1882), l'Inde Française (1883 and 1893), Le Républicain de l'Inde Française (1885), Bulletin Météorologique et Agricole (1886), L'Indounessane (1887), L'Echo de Pondichéry (1887), Vigadapradapam (1888), India-gup and gossip (1889), Union Républicaine (1891), Sri Soudjanarandjini (1893), Le Temps de L'Inde Française (1883), Mezzo-termine (1883), Le Pondichérien (1894), l'Hindou (1895), l'Indépendant (1897), Vidyabivarthini (1897), Le Jeune Patriote (1897) and Le Patriote (1898). Almost all of them were weeklies.

'Commerce de Pondichéry' took shape as a venture by the members of Cercle de Commerce. This almost marked a new trend in that journals catering to sectional interests started appearing in the territory. To 'Le Progrès de Karikal' may go the distinction of being the earliest bilingual political weekly to appear from Karaikal. The authorisation was issued to Gnanapragassin and Samyodèar for starting the journal in 1879. 'Satyabimani' was the first

Tamil journal to appear from Karaikal. From 1883 onwards 'Le Progrès de Karikal' started appearing from Pondicherry as 'Le Progrès de l'Inde Française'. This appears to have had a long lease of life extending up to 1917. It was a pro-government journal which at one time supported Lemaire. It carried articles upholding republican principles supported by quotations from the Kural and the Naladiyar. It strove for the cause of widow re-marriage and also pleaded for extending to French India the law of 22/26 July 1867 which abolished the system of forced labour in France. This periodical was, however, very critical of the then Député of Pondicherry and the majority of elected representatives (Conseils electifs). Following a complaint made against this periodical in the Conseil Général, Louis R. Rassendrin, its publisher who was also a member of the Conseil Général, was imposed a fine of 1,000 francs for defamation by the highest court in Pondicherry on 18 January 1883. 35

In August 1881, M. Pène Siefert, husband of Lousia Siefert, the poetess, published from Pondicherry 'L' Inde Française' although only five issues of the journal appeared. In 1883, another journal under the same title is understood to have been started by renoncants. As this was objected to by the old title holder, it assumed the title of 'Le temps de l'Inde Française'. But even this stopped appearing after its tenth issue, following objections raised by 'Temps' of Paris. 36 A journal carrying the same title appeared again from 1893. This journal extended its support to Lemaire and opposed Nadou Chanemouga Velayouda Moudeliar. 'Union Républicaine' was started by Krishnamachariar, father of Mandayam Thirumalachariar, who later founded 'India' (1906), the nationalist weekly of Madras. The non-renoncants published the journal 'Mezzo-termine' (1883). 'Sri Soudjanarandjini' never failed to pinpoint administrative lapses or to criticise erring Mayors and Governors. Labour problems were discussed and literary criticism found a place in this journal. It published editorials on the political situation in British-India and carried reports of the proceedings of the Indian National Congress. It also encouraged the publication of short stories and may be described as a fore-runner to the literary journals which started appearing some years later. While 'Commerce de Pondichéry', 'Le Courrier de l'Inde Française' and 'L'Echo de Pondichéry' carried commercial news 'Le Republicain de l'Inde Française' dealt with agriculture, commerce and maritime affairs, 'Le Courrier de l'Inde Française' seems to have appeared from Madras. 'Vidyabivarthini' (1897) was a Tamil journal published by a group of persons interested in neo-Vedantism.37

The first quarter of the twentieth century is very significant for it was during this period that the vernacular press came to assert its predominance. This was also the period which attracted to Pondicherry such literary luminarles as Aurobindo, Subramania Bharathi, V. Ramassamy (Va. Ra.) and V.V.S. Iyer who in turn contributed so much to enrich the field of journalism. Then there were scholars like Periasamipillai, Bangaru Pathar, V. Doraisamy Mudaliar, etc. who upheld the heritage of the Tamil language. Bharathidasan having been recognised as a poet, made his debut in the field of journalism during this period chiefly through his poems.

In the course of the first quarter of the twentieth century numerous iournals made their appearance, viz. Le Démocrate (1900), Poudourai Nesan (1900), Union Hindou (1901), Poudhuvai Sindamany (1903), Sanmarkabodiny (1903), Sudessa-Vartamany (1904), Nyayabimany (1904 and 1925), Surian (1905), Muhamadu Samathani (1905), Le Liberal de l'Inde Française (1906), L'Union Republicaine de l'Inde Française (1906), Sarvaviyabhi (1907), Le Pionnier (1907). Karai Gnanabanou (1906), Le Journal de l'Inde Française (1907), India (1908), Vijava (1909), Sourvodayam (1909), The Pondy Mail (1910), L'Argus (1911), Piranchu Nesan (1913), Kalaimagal (1913), Journal Judiciaire de l'Inde Française (1913 and 1926), The Indian Advertiser (1913), Sugabiviruthini (1914 and 1924), The Arya (1914), Karpagam (1915), Revue Historique de l'Inde Française (1916). Le Collègien (1918), Le Commerçant (1918), Thamizh Magavu (1918), Le Journal, Indonlibre (1921), Desa Sevagan (1922), Kudiarasu (1923), Atma Sakthi, (1924). Parasakthi (1924), Merchant (1924), Sri Punitha (1925). Among these 'Sarwaviyabhi' is the only Tamil weekly that continues to appear even today without any break. In the early days, this diocesan weekly carried local, national as well as international news besides weather report and trade news. Among these, Le Journal Indou-Libre, Kudiarasu, Sri Punitha, Le Soleil (Surian), Nyayabimany, Karai Gnanabanou and the Muhamadu Samathani appeared from Karaikal.

The nationalist Tamil weekly 'India' which began its venture in Madras on 12 May 1906 had to wind up by the end of September 1908. The journal reappeared from Pondicherry from 20 October 1908. Although political events which occurred in different parts of British India and resolutions passed by the Indian National Congress appeared in this journal, local political issues were not discussed. Its entry into British India was soon banned, and it continued up to 19 March 1910. Another English monthly from Madras by name 'Bala Bharatha' also seems to have appeared from Pondicherry. Sometime later

Bharathi became the editor of Souryodayam, started by Saigon Chinnaiah Ratnasamy Naidu. The 4 December 1909 issue of 'India' carried an advertisement about the appearance of a monthly cartoon magazine by name 'Chithravali'. It is however not known whether it made its appearance at all.

The 'Nyayabimany' appeared on two different occasions, once from 1904 and later from 1925. 'Vijaya' the Tamil nationalist daily launched by Mandayam Thirumalachariar first appeared from Madras. As it could no longer continue there due to British harassment, it had to shift its locale to Pondicherry with effect from 7 September 1909.38 To this may well go the distinction of being the first Tamil daily of Pondicherry.

The 'Journal Judiciaire de l'Inde française' was a law journal brought out by the Judiciary. There were two different issues of this journal, one which appeared from 1913, another which lasted between 1926 and 1929. Of these journals, 'Le Collègien' was intended for college students. The 'Arya' had the distinction of having Sri Aurobindo on its editorial board and served as the spring-board of Aurobindo's philosophy. 39 'Kalaimagal', 'Karpagam' and 'Thamizh Magavu' may fall under the category of literary journals.

'Kalaimagal' was edited by Bangaru Pathar under the auspices of Kalaimagal Kazhagam. 'Karpagam' was a Tamil literary journal of high standard. Bharathidasan's poems appeared in this journal. V. Doraisamy Mudaliar edited the 'Thamizh Magavu'. The appearance of these journals is indicative of the revival of interest in Tamil language and literature. While 'Desa Sevagan' (Le Patriote) helped kindle the patriotic fervour, Parasakthi and Atma Sakthi carried articles on philosophical themes. 'Merchant' appeared as a messenger of the trading community.

The period between 1925 and 1954 marks another watershed in the history of the Fourth Estate. The visit of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru and the events of the freedom movement in India in the thirties had created a great impact among the enlightened leaders of Pondicherry. The thirties also witnessed a deep ferment among the working class and a growing clamour for better working conditions and trade union rights. Added to this, the great economic depression and its concomitants of low production, retrenchment, unemployment and labour unrest added to the misery of the people. The events connected with the labour movement, culminating in the July massacre was responsible for the articulation of public opinion. The period also saw

the growing influence of the Self-Respect Movement led by E.V. Ramasamy Naicker. The outbreak of World War II in 1939 also had its effects and the journals had in turn much to write about. The Franco-Indou Partie held sway till the end of World War II. The position held by this party was taken over by Front Populaire which remained in power for a short period only to be replaced by the French India Socialist Party in 1948. There were one or more journals either supporting or opposing the policies of one or other of these political parties which functioned in the territory. The Governor and the administration came under the attack of some journals which led to their suppression in the year 1938. The journals 'Sudandiram', 'Sugabiviruthini' and 'Kudiarasu' were banned.40 Further, certain restrictions were placed on the press in 1944 as a war time measure. Violation of these measures entailed imprisonment for a period ranging from one to five years and a fine ranging from 1,000 to 1,000,000 francs. Naturally the journals turned out to be very cautious in their comments. Some of them even came out in support of the government in its war efforts.

The declaration of independence for British India brought about a new awakening among the people leading to a great upsurge. It was also a period of considerable political tension. Journals advocating the cause of Pondicherry's freedom had to encounter many difficulties. But leaflets attacking the French administration were printed outside Pondicherry and distributed in the territory. The newspapers and journals in India strongly supported the cause of Pondicherry's freedom from French rule. The journal 'Indian Union' was subjected to severe restrictions. By the arreté dated 14 October 1954 the Secretary-General in charge of Current Affairs imposed a ban provisionally on the publication of all journals, reviews and periodicals in any language other than French. However the arreté dated 26 October 1954 repealed the above said suspension order only four days before de facto merger.

During this period not less than 100 periodicals reflecting a variety of political views, literary tastes and sectional interests were published in the establishments. Journal judiciaire de l'Inde française reappeared in 1926. Paropakari, L'Inde nouvelle, Djothi and Couganda Vacam Vicum Ciriya Poushpam appeared in 1927. Le Flambeau and Jauharoul Islam came out in 1928. Desabandhu, Pain de Saint Antoine (Andoniarappam) and Chandira were published in 1929. Those which appeared in 1930 were Sarprasada Yudham, Bharatham, Dupleix and Thainadu. Those which appeared in 1931 were Le Semeur de

l'Inde française, Alar, L'Instituteur and Thozhilalar mithiran. In 1932 appeared Gnana Bothini and Sudhandiranadu. The next year appeared L'Inde Française, Vithagam, L'Inde illustrée and Karaikal Mail. The year 1934 saw the publication of Sudandiram, Circulaire Commerciale, Ponmalar, Vidusahan, Alliance internationale indo-française, Desobakari and Subramania Bharathiarin Kavithamandalam. The journal 'Sudandiram' started by V. Subbiah stoutly defended the cause of the working class. It still continues its publication while all others have gone defunct. Demanding the British to quit India, the C.P.I. extended its co-operation to the war efforts of the British in India. As the iournal supported the cause of India's freedom, its entry into British-India was banned in 1938. The journal 'Desobakari' edited by Gnanou Ambroise supported the Franco-Hindu Party. While no journal appeared in 1935, those which came out in 1936 were Foyer Médical, Renaissance or Jeasakti, Nadagam and S.S.L.C. Home Tutor. The year 1937 saw the birth of Sandrorkula Nesan, Bharatha Madha, Puthuyugam and Ethiroli. In 1938 appeared Samuhamithran, Saraswathi and in the next year appeared Pothujana Uzhian. The year 1940 saw the publication of Revue de l'enseignement dans l'Inde française and In 1942 came La Gazette de L'Inde Française and Le Thamizhanangu. Trait d'Union. In the course of 1944 appeared Advent, Balyan, Puthu Ulagam, Le Guide, Thamizh Magan, French India, Vanoli and Karai Murasu. Of these, 'French India' edited by Rajamanickam survived for some years. This journal later became the mouth-piece of the French India Socialist Party. The Advent' was the first Ashram journal which carried the message of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. The journals published in 1945 were Vennila, Sudanthira Surian, Bulletin Mahadjana, Kalaignar, Nadigan, Puthuvai Thozhilalar, Catholican, Sanmarkka Sanku, Kasturibai, Thondan, Cinema, Rasigan, Thamarai, Suravali and Bharatha Sakthi. Bulletin Mahadjana was a fortnightly started by Marie Savery. President of the Mahadjana Party for propagating the policies and programmes of the party. 'Bharatha Sakthi' appeared under the editorship of Yogi Sudhananda Bharathi. In 1946 appeared Ayareru. The year 1947 saw the birth of Janatha. Archana, Dakshina, Samudayam, Nadarkulam, Voix de l'Instituteur, Jeunesse, Couil, Bharathi, Pithan, India Union, Kalai Vazhvu, League Musalman and Sangu. The journal 'Jeunesse' not only reflected the policies and programmes of the Indian National Congress but also strongly voiced the demand for freedom for French India.

'Couil' came out as a Tamil monthly under the editorship of poet Bharathidasan. 'Samudayam', a Tamil weekly was edited by S. R. Subramanian.

In 1948 appeared Jeunesse et Joie, Maramathu Vimarsanam, Manilam, La Voix du Peuple, Bulletin of Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education. The same year the monthly journal "Couil" was permitted to appear as a daily. In the course of 1949 appeared 'Mother India', L'Educateur, Liberation, République Française and 'The Bulletin of Physical Education'. The journals La Voix du Peuple and République Française were opposed to the cause of freedom. There followed a significant lull in the birth of new journals during the next few years. Understandably, it was a period when the liberation movement was put down with a heavy hand. Karai Mail was the only Tamil weekly which appeared from Karaikal in 1950. Vimosanam made its appearance in 1951. A new Puduvai Murasu came out in 1952. In 1954 appeared the harmless monthly 'Radio and Amplifier' from Karaikal marking almost the end of an era.

It is interesting to note that journals in Hindi, Gujarathi, English, French and Marathi were published from Pondicherry under the aegis of the Ashram during this period. Many of the journals which appeared during this period were of non-political character. Even those few political periodicals like Janatha, Samudayam, India Union, Sangu, Manilam, Liberation, Karai Mail, Vimosanam and Puduvai Murasu supported the cause of freedom.

The dawn of freedom saw a mushroom growth of periodicals. Between 1955 and 1970 more than fifty periodicals saw the light of day. The first application for starting a journal by name 'The Voice' came from A. Vincent Rao. Other journals authorised for publication in the year 1955 were Dum-Dum, Cocorico, Studio, Parvatha Kula Mithran, L'Impartial, The Voice of Pondicherry, Vimochanam, Silambou. The Southern Times, Soujenilal, Outtivogastar Munnetram, Ezhai Thozhilali and Estate Buyer. The same year Sanjeevan the Marathi quarterly of Pune (Poona) shifted its locale to Pondicherry.

In 1956 appeared 'Puthuvai Seithigal', Kavalan, Voix de l'Educateur, Puthuvaimani and Congress. The year 1957 saw the birth of Vanampadi and Arulmari. In the course of 1957 appeared Dipti, Santhivikatan, La Voix Nouvelle (Poudoukural). In 1958 came Nabajyothi and Tamizh Murasu. In 1960 appeared Jananayagam, Bal Dakshina, Kuyil, Desiyam, = 1 Equals one, Sakthi, Newsletter, Thamizh Selvi, Puthuvaikkural, Sujanaranjini, Anbumalar, Thamizhanangu and Thamizh Oli. (The Tamizhanangu of 1940 seems to have appeared from Karaikal.) The next year came 'World Union'. In 1962 appeared Purodha in Hindi and Bengali. In 1963 appeared 'Annual'. None seems to have

appeared in 1964. The year 1965 is marked by 'World Union Focus'. The 'Bulletin of the Chamber of Commerce' and 'Pondy Observer' started appearing from 1966. Probably none appeared in 1967. The year 1968 saw. 'Jipmer News', 'News from Pondy' and 'I.I.P.A. Bulletin'. The year 1969 saw the birth of Vaigarai, Seelam and La Voix des Anciens Combattans et Victimes de Guerre. And now to close this account, Yoga life, Porval, Agni Siksha, Avilan Diary and Nabaprakash appeared in 1970.

Out of these, as many as twelve viz. Dipti (Kannada), Nabajyothi (Oriya), Bal Dakshina (Gujarathi), = 1 Equals one (English), World Union (English), Purodha (Hindi and Bengali). Annual (English), World Union Focus (English), Vaigarai (Tamil), Agni Siksha (Hindi) and Nabaprakash (Oriya) were brought out either by Sri Aurobindo Ashram or its affiliated institutions. The Tamil journals Puduvaimani and Congress were started respectively by the Secretary and Convenor of the District Congress Committee, The English monthly 'Yoga Life' is published 'Jipmer News' is a fortnightly house journal published by Ananda Ashram. by Jipmer. Thamizhselvi, Vanampadi, Bharathidasan Kuyil and Thamizhanangu fall under the genre of literary journals. All of them except 'Thamizhanangu' have gone defunct. The English weekly 'Pondy Observer' now comes out as 'New Times Observer'. 'Vanambadi' a trilingual weekly was started by Gopady alias Mannarmannan. The monthly journal 'Santi Vikatan' edited by Mougammadalimaricar appeared from Karaikal. Julien Adiceam was authorised to publish 'La Voix Nouvelle' a bi-monthly journal and to bring out a Tamil edition under the title 'Poudoukural'. G. Kitchenaraj of Pondicherry obtained authorisation for publication of 'Tamizh Murasu' a Tamil Weekly. This carried the poems of Bharathidasan.

It is difficult to determine the longevity of most of the journals. Evidently most of them had only a short spell of existence. Journals bearing the same title have appeared at different periods. Even if they ceased publication, no renewal of authorisation was necessary for them to reappear under the same name after a break of some weeks, months or even years. The survival rate of journals had always been very poor. Very often they came out with a flash only to die out in a whimper. This may partly be attributed to the incapacity of local journals to improve their circulation or to compete with those published elsewhere in India. Nevertheless journals such as Vithagam Puduvai Murasu, Bharatha Sakthi and India were popular not only in Tamil Nadu but also in Ceylon, Malaysia, Burma, etc. It is also difficult to discern the policies pursued by the various journals as issues of many old journals

published in the French establishments are not preserved anywhere here. The best collection of old journals is found in France in the annexe of **Bibliothéque** Nationale at Versailles.41 Another peculiar feature was that most of the journals appeared as billinguals so as to cater to a larger audience. Among periodicals, weeklies enjoyed the greatest popularity. Although not many dailies made their appearance, none of them were successful either in terms of circulation or even longevity.

Until about the year 1947, all journals and newspapers published outside the territory enjoyed unhindered circulation here. However since then the journals started supporting the cause of French India's freedom and urged upon the French to quit from the French Indian establishments. These developments prompted the then administration to prohibit the entry of journals that advocated the cause of freedom. In November 1948 the entry of 'Janada' into the establishments was banned by the arrêté of 9 November 1948. Similarly the entry of the weekly 'Kalki' was banned on 25 November 1948.

The Hindu, The Indian Express and The Mail (all published from Madras) are the common English dailies popular in the territory. Newspapers and journals published elsewhere in India are more popular than local journals. While Tamil journals published in Tamil Nadu are mostly in demand in Pondicherry and Karaikal, Malayalam and Telugu journals published in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh are read in Mahe and Yanam regions respectively.

APULE GUE

It may be recalled here that the Royal Edict of June 1776 had created a repository in France for the preservation of all public documents of the colonies. Steps were also taken to ensure the delivery of all publications brought out in the overseas territories in this repository. This arrangement came to be known as 'dépôt légal'. As many as three copies of every ordinary book and five copies of lithography and engravings had to be deposited in the public library.42

The authorisation for publication of journals in the establishments was issued by the Governor by virtue of the powers conferred by article 26 of **Ordonnance Organique** of 23 July 1840. The freedom of the press was ensured by the law of 29 July 1881, which was promulgated in the French establishments in India by the **arrêté** of 26 August 1881. This was a comprehensive law covering all aspects of the press. Under article 3, two copies of all publications

had to be sent to the national collection in France. Under article 10, two copies had to be submitted to the **Procureur de la République**. Under article 7, declarations had to be filed before the **Procureur de la République** by the editor, printer and publisher furnishing details of the publisher as well as the journal. The editor must be a French citizen enjoying all civil rights.

In 1885, instructions were issued to the Governor to despatch without fail two copies of all publications so deposited for the national collection in France. The law of 1881, subsequently amended on several occasions, was modified by the décret of 19 March 1912. This step placed certain restrictions on the working of the vernacular press. The ordinance of 26 August 1944, relating to the organisation and ownership of the press, was promulgated in the establishments by the arrêté of 18 October 1944.43

The system of delivery of books and periodicals (dépôt légal) underwent some major changes under the décret of 17 July 1946. The arrêté of 30 September 1946 determined the organisation and mode of functioning of the registry of dépôt lêgal. Under this order, the Bureau de l'Information was placed in charge of this responsibility. These regulations were in force for all practical purposes till 30 September 1963.

Following de jure transfer, the freedom of the press in the Territory came to be guaranteed by the Constitution. The Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963 provided for the regulation of printing presses and newspapers in the Territory and also for the preservation of copies of printed books, and for the registration of such books. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 20 of the Act, the Pondicherry Registration of Books Rules, 1964 were notified in the Gazette on 6 February 1964. Under section 11-A and B of the Act, newspaper printers were required to deliver to the government two copies of each issue of the newspaper soon after its publication. Similarly every publisher was required to deliver to the Press Registrar one copy of each issue of such newspapers soon after publication.

Under the provision of the above said rules it was obligatory for all printing presses in the Territory to deliver to the Registrar of Books, three copies of all books printed or lithographed by them. Out of the three books so delivered, the Registrar of Books was required to deposit one copy each in a separate library meant to serve as a reference library, and to forward the remaining two copies to the Central Government. The rules further stipulated that a catalogue of books printed within the Territory should be maintained by the Registrar of Books. Once every quarter, the catalogue of books published during the said quarter ought to be published in the Gazette. The functions of the Press Registrar are performed by the Director of Information, Publicity and Tourism in Pondicherry. In the outlying regions, the functions are performed by the Administrators. Declarations for starting newspapers are filed before the Additional District Magistrate (Executive).

## III. Voluntary social service organisations

In the early days, the system of charity was so closely knit to the social fabric that merchants had to set apart a small percentage of the price charged for the goods towards public charity. The joint family system provided for the care of the sick, the indigent and the disabled within its fold. The benevolent among the rich sought to perpetuate their names not only by instituting choultries to provide shelter for wandering mendicants and pilgrims but also by endowing properties in favour of choultries, mutts, temples, etc. for feeding the poor. In these age old practices we may perhaps identify the earliest traces of voluntary social service. Only some of these benevolent institutions have survived, while the rest have either been gobbled up by their parasitical progenies or successors or have become defunct.

With the advent of printing and the growth of literacy and the consequent spread of knowledge, people came to be swayed by new ideas and ideals. They slowly came together to seek furtherance of their ideals through organised efforts. Thus sprung up institutions for the advancement for certain castes, for the spread of literacy, uplift of the down-trodden, etc. Certain organisations were formed for the encouragement of sports, language, literature as well as research in various branches of studies, etc. There are now denominational as well as non-denominational institutions in all of these categories.

The missionaries were also involved in organised efforts to provide relief to the sick, the indigent and the disabled. Father Michel Ansaldo, the Jesuit who came to Pondicherry in 1750 may be called the progenitor of the Congregation of St. Louis de Gonzague. The sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph

de Cluny started their carreer in Pondicherry as early as in 1827. The famous Fr. Louis Savinien Dupuis founded the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1844. The sisters of Missions Etrangères were the last to enter the arena in 1948. Besides these Congregations some of the parishes also have evinced interest in socio-ameliorative work.

The last quarter of the nineteenth century witnessed the birth of many organisations devoted to the cause of various religions, languages, castes or groups. For instance, the 'Société de Secours mutuels des créoles' was started in 1883 for helping the créoles, and 'Madjemaoul-mouhsinil mouminine' for helping the muslims and the 'Société Mutuelle des Hindous Chrétiens de caste' for the benefit of caste Christians. Valangamougattars and renoncants started the 'Société Progressiste des renonçants et Valangaimougattars' in the year 1893. 'Sanerore Koula Sangam' (1927), 'Sengoundar Sangame' (1929), 'Vaisia Valibar Sangam of Karaikal' (1930), 'Vaissia Samadjam' (1933) and 'Haridjana Seva Sangham' (1937), 'Société d'Education de la Jeunesse', 'Société d'Encouragement Mutuel pur les Etudes Secondaires et Supérieures', 'Alliance éducative des Vannias', 'Société instructive sous le nom de Tamijetallir' 'Poudouvai Tamije Kalvi Sangame' and 'Kalvi Kajagome' were all started for the educational and cultural advancement of different segments of the population. A brief account of the voluntary organisations and missionary institutions which are engaged in social service activities in the Territory is presented in the following paragraphs:

Société Progressiste de l'Inde Française: The société was started on 2 March 1880 for the avowed purpose of popularising French language and culture. It played an important role in the educational advancement of the Hindus. It was through the efforts of this société that upper primary education and teacher training courses were introduced in Collège Calvé. It made some monetary contributions to the educational projects sponsored by the administration. A school was also opened in its premises. Scholarships were awarded to deserving students for pursuing their studies. In 1904 the school had to be closed down for want of resources. However it was reopened in 1921 thanks to a donation of Rs. 5,000 given by T.S.N. Nannaya Bagavathar, a leading merchant of the town. The society utilised the income derived from the investment of about Rs. 30,000 and the rent from a building owned by it for carrying on its activities. An Executive Committee managed the affairs of this société.

Société de Secours Mutuels des Créoles: This société was authorised by the arrêté of 1 March 1883. It extended financial assistance to destitute créoles in the town. A recipient of subvention during the French period, the société was listed as one of he institutions eligible for financial assistance under the Indo-French Agreement.

Revéil Social: This organisation was launched on 20 July 1907, by some of the enlightened citizens of the town for the benefit of the members of the depressed classes. This society drew the attention of the then administration to the appalling conditions of the socially backward classes living in the villages in the matter of drinking water and educational facilities. At the instance of the very strong representations made by this society, may wells were dug in the areas occupied by the depressed classes to ensure the supply of drinking water. Elementary schools were opened in Gudappakkam, Poraiyur, Poomiampet and Orlayanpet villages. This association also succeeded in persuading the administration to issue the decret of 16 June 1937 which prohibited all references to caste in the Etat-Civil records, etc. In 1940 another arrêté was issued by the administration to prohibit the use of such derogatory appellations as paracheri, paratherou, etc. after village names and ordered that they should be substituted by 'peth'.

Several associations like the 'Foyer Scolaire et Sportif' (Quai de Ginjy), 'Revéil Amical' (Dupuypet), 'La Pléade' (North Boulevard), 'Etoile de Matin' (Uppalam Netajinagar-I) 'Bharathi Nulagam' (Uppalam Netajinagar-II), 'Ajagiri Nulagam' (Puduppalaiyam) and 'La Jeunesse Laborieuse' (Tiruvalluvarnagar) extended their co-operation to Revéil Social in carrying out an integrated programme for the spread of education among the socially depressed classes in the villages. Under the auspices of this organisation a separate association called 'Solidarité des Dames de l' Inde Française' (Solidarity of French Indian Women) was started in 1937 to serve the women. This association has its own premises in rue La Porte (Pondicherry). Besides the rent collected by letting out its premises, its other sources of income included subscriptions and donations from the public and grants from the government.

Cercle Sportif Pondichérien: Authorised by the arrêté of 28 February 1913, this 'Cercle' started functioning the same year, chiefly to encourage sports and athletics in the establishments. In the forties however, this association took keen interest in educating the children belonging to the backward classes. The

'Cercle' has its own building within the campus of Odiansalai (now Anna thidal). There were facilities here for outdoor as well as indoor games. Tournaments were also arranged by this body from time to time.

Dina Poshaka Samajam, Yanam: This samajam was started in 1931 with a view to spreading education among the depressed classes and to represent their grievances to the administration. In 1949, the administration gave this samajam a lump sum grant for the construction of a building where a dharma patasala was run for the benefit of poor harijan children. The samajam also worked for the social awakening of the depressed classes in the region through dramatic performances. A small library was also maintained by the samajam.

Arya Vaissia Samadjam: Started in 1933, the samajam worked for the welfare of members belonging to the Vysial community in the town. Recently it had been conducting Telugu classes for the benefit of the general public. A small library was also maintained in the premises of the samajam in Vysial street. Now the building is used only as a Community Hall where marriages are held.

Harijana Seva Sangham: This sangam was started in the year 1933 by some of the enlightened citizens of Pondicherry who came to be influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. The members of the sangam worked among the depressed classes who were mostly employed in the textile mills in the town. Members of the sangam visited harijan villages and taught them how to keep their villages clean and their houses tidy. Young boys and girls were taught to read and write. This sangam is now defunct.

Blind Relief Association: This Association was started in 1947 with a view to providing relief and rehabilitation to the blind and disabled. The Home for the Blind, started by the Association, was declared open by Governor Baron in 1947 with nine blind inmates. They were given training in mat weaving, rope making and music. Mats and ropes produced by the blind were sold to the public. The blind were provided with walking sticks and uniforms by the Association. A guide appointed by the Association took them for walks outside the premises. Apart from the proceeds from the sale of products manufactured by the inmates, other sources of income included donations, subscriptions and grants. The Central Social Welfare Advisory Board, Delhi gives an annual grant for the maintenance of blind adults. The association is one of the recipients of assistance from the Comité de Bienfaisance, Pondicherry. The association is run by a managing committee of five elected members.

Vyoma Ashram, Villiyanur: Vyoma Ashram at Kanuvapet in Villiyanur was established in 1947 by Vyoma Munivar. Located in a 24-acre site, the ashram functions as a spiritual and social service centre. The inmates of the ashram were engaged in such activities as agriculture and dairy-farming, poultry-farming and cottage industries. The ashram also maintained an orphanage, a nursery school, a primary school and a Siddha vaidyasala.

Gandhi Kasturba Orphanage, Villiyanur: This orphanage was started in 1952 for taking care of orphans and abandoned children from among harijans and others. The institution was managed by a Committee of nine members nominated by Vyoma Munivar, the head of Vyoma Ashram. Free education with boarding and lodging facilities was made available for the orphans here. Some of the inmates were allowed to pursue their studies in high schools and colleges. Day-scholars were allowed to study in the day school conducted by the institution. A dining-hall was constructed in 1960 with the financial assistance extended by the administration. The ashram also arranged the marriage of girls brought up by the ashram. Its resources included donations, grants from government and the Central Social Welfare Advisory Board and income from agricultural lands owned by the ashram. Recently the Central Government sanctioned a grant for the construction of two cottages to accommodate the orphans.

Magalir Kazhagam, Pondicherry: This kazhagam was founded in 1948 and was affiliated to the All India Women's Conference, New Delhi.

Two nursery schools were run by this kazhagam in Pondicherry, one in Montorsier Street and the other in Sankaradoss Street. The children were also provided with mid-day meals. Classes were conducted for women in embroidery and garment making. Training in crafts was given to grown-up girls. An elected nine-member managing committee managed the affairs of the kazhagam which subsisted on donations, subscriptions, sale proceeds and grants. The Central Social Welfare Board also extended financial assistance to this kazhagam.

Vani Nilayam: This organisation has been functioning in Pondicherry since 1951. The nilayam conducted a night school for school-going children and a library. It also arranged debating contests, sports competitions, etc. A free medical check-up centre was also started by the nilayam in January 1970 with the assistance of two qualified doctors. The nilayam also organised a nursery

school in Nainiappa Pillai Street, Pondicherry to provide pre-basic educational facilities for children hailing from poor families. It charged only a token fee. The nilayam subsisted almost entirely on donations.

Guild of Service, Pondicherry: The Pondicherry Branch of the Guild of Service affiliated to the Guild of Service (Central), Madras was formed in 1955. The services of the Guild were availed of for the distribution of milk powder, wheat flour, cornmeal, oil, etc., donated by the Committee on Relief and Gift Suppliers, National Christian Council of India. The Guild which was recently reactivated organised two creches for the benefit of children of working women and a bakery unit for providing jobs and training for unemployed youth. Training was also imparted in tailoring and toy making for the physically handicapped.

Guild of Service, Mahe: The branch here was started in the year 1955. It managed a Nursery School for the benefit of children and a tailoring school for girls. This is now defunct.

Pondicherry State Women's Association: This Association, affiliated to the National Federation of Indian Women, New Delhi, was established in 1955. This association organised a craft centre in Pondicherry town, Adult Education Centres at Nellitoppu and Uppalam and a Nursery School at Kumaragurupallam. In the Adult Education Centres, classes were conducted in tailoring, embroidery, food preservation, mat-weaving, etc. The affairs of this association were managed by an elected committee of thirteen members of whom six were office-bearers. The expenses were met from donations, subscriptions from members, sale proceeds of handicraft products and grants sanctioned by the Central Social Welfare Board and the Pondicherry Administration.

Pondicherry Council for Child Welfare: Organised in 1957, it was affiliated to the Indian Council for Child Welfare in 1961. To start with, the Council opened two nursery schools and a Children's Recreation Centre. Later, four creches were started with the assistance received from the State Social Welfare Board to look after children up to five years of working mothers. The Council organised a balwadi, a creche and a Recreation Centre at Gingisalai and a balwadi at Madukkarai. It also conducted a Balasevika Training Centre with financial assistance from the Indian Council for Child Welfare.

Gandhi Anbu Nilayam, Tirunallar: One Ammani Ammal of Tirunallar, started this nilayam on 2 February 1960, for the benefit of orphan and pestitute girls. An orphanage and a nursery school was run with the help

of donations and contributions from the founder-President and grants from the government. The management of the institution was taken over by the Tirunallar Devasthanam on 7 October 1968 and since then it was running it under the name of 'Gandhi Nilayam'.

Volontariat: This Voluntary Social Service Project started its operations Pondicherry 1961. in in This has its headquarters în Liege. Belgium. It is an inter-denominational association financed by about 800 Belgians. The project helped young people to realise their responsibility towards the poor. Madame Deblic who was in charge of the project since its inception, adopted Uppalam village with 300 families about two kilometres from Pondicherry for implementing the project. The Project organised a Child Welfare Clinic and a dispensary for minor and common ailments with particular emphasis on the prevention of diseases and health education for children under seven years of age. Milk was distributed to children under the Special Nutrition Programme. Under the mid-day meal programme, about 100 children were given mid-day meal with the food supplies received from Belgium. Clothes were distributed twice a year to the poor. In an attempt to instil the idea of self-help, male volunteers demonstrated the methods of building huts with thatched roofs and mud-walls with materials supplied by the Project. Students from some Universities in France came and worked here. Some of the villagers were given training in rope making, weaving, embroidery lace-work, doll making and wicker work and were paid wages for their work. Families were supplied with good breeds of poultry, pigs, sheep, etc. to improve their economic status. While youngsters were fixed up in various jobs, adults were helped to find regular jobs. In an attempt to rehabilitate some cured lepers, they were provided with weaving equipment and material. The material produced, especially the hand-woven cloth, was partly sold locally and the rest sent to Belgium for sale. The Volontariat embarked on an ambitious plan of setting up a model village with a poultry-farm, a milk co-operative, a fish breeding centre and a tile manufacturing unit. This voluntary organisation was allotted a plot of land in Uppalam free of cost by the government.

Vivekananda Nagar Ladies Club: This club was established in October 1966 and registered in 1967 under the Societies Registration Act. The club organised an orphanage and the inmates were provided food, clothing and shelter. They were also provided educational facilities. A nine-member managing committee attended to the activities of the club. As it had no regular sources of income

its expenses were met through subscriptions by members, donations from the public and collections from benefit performances. The club received grant-in-aid from the Government of India for the construction of a building to accommodate the orphans and for the maintenance of four children.

Kasturba Seva Sangam: This sangam was formed on 5 April 1962, the Telugu New Year Day. Its inauguration was marked by the opening of a balwadi for children, a ladies club and a night school for women. Initial difficulties in securing proper accommodation were overcome in January 1963, thanks to the generosity of Senapathi Mudaliar who placed at the disposal of the sangam, free of rent a building for carrying on the activities of the sangam. This institution which came into being through the initiative of Kamala Sharma, a Gandhian Social Worker, became defunct after her death in 1973.

Santhi Nursery School: This was a registered body which provided prebasic education for poor children in the 2-5 age group. The school started functioning in a rented building at Muttiyalupettai from 25 June 1966. The school had no other source of income other than the tuition fees collected at the rate of Re. 1 p.m. per child. The deficit was met from collections through benefit shows and donations from the public. The school was given a grant by the administration during the year 1970-71.

Indira Gandhi Mandram: The mandram, started on 12 December 1967, worked for the welfare of children and women. The government extended financial assistance to this mandram to run two balwadies, one at Bharathi Street, Pondicherry and the other at Mel Sattamangalam, where pre-basic educational facilities were provided for poor children in the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -5 age group. Grown-up women were given training in tailoring. The mandram also maintained a creche with financial assistance from the Government of India.

Oriental Women's Association, Pillaitottam: This Association, functioning since 3 May 1968, set up an orphanage at Pillaitottam, Pondicherry. Amenities such as food, shelter, clothing and education were provided for the inmates. The orphanage was taken care of by an eight-member executive committee. This association had no regular sources of income other than donations and subscriptions from members, until it started receiving grant regularly from the administration.

Ananda Ashram, Laspettai: Though essentially an International Centre for Yoga Training and for the study of vedanta, the Ashram founded by Swami Gitananda in 1969 supported two local temples and maintained a free clinic to achieve integration with the life of the surrounding villages. The Ashram published 'Yoga Life', a monthly journal and conducted correspondence courses on Yoga. Donations received from India and abroad helped meet the financial needs of the ashram. A hostel was run for the benefit of Yoga students. Those who joined the ashram for study and training met their own expenses.

Rotary Club: The Rotary Club of Pondicherry, since its inception in 1956, implemented several social welfare measures in and around Pondicherry under its programme of 'Community Service'. Besides carrying on such activities as distribution of clothes, books and other stationery items to poor children, the blind and indigent patients in hospitals, the club also awarded prizes for meritorious students and well maintained offices and hotels in the town. The club also extended financial assistance for an orphanage run by a voluntary social service organisation.

Rotaract Club: The youth wing of the Rotary Club was started on 4 August 1971, with about 30 members, mostly students of local colleges. The members of this club evinced interest in the field of education by arranging free tuition for poor children and conducting night schools. A slum clearance project was taken up at Abhishekapakkam, a village about 12 km. away from Pondicherry. Health care of the children in the harijan colony was attended to by the female members of the club.

Lion's Club, Pondicherry: The Lion's Club which started operating since 27 December 1959 received its charter on 30 July 1960. The club had constructed bus-stop shelters and a rest house for visitors, donated a hearse van to the General Hospital, Pondicherry, sewing machines to the Policemen's Welfare Project and oral vaccines to poor children. The club awarded medals to students securing highest marks in public examinations. Further, it extended financial help to orthopaedic patients in JIPMER, provided scholarships and interest-free loans to poor students, distributed spectacles to the poor with eye defects and assisted cultural and sports activities in the town.

The Pondicherry Society for the Welfare of Students: This was founded in 1961 to render help to the student community. The society gave interest-free loans for poor students to prosecute post-matric studies in Pondicherry.

A Student Health Check-up Centre was run at Laspettai where medicines were supplied free of cost. The society also maintained a Book Bank for the benefit of poor students. The society raised its funds by holding exhibitions, festival foot-ball matches, variety entertainments, film-shows, raffles, etc. (vide Chapter XV, p. 1321 under 'Students' Welfare International').

Au fils d'Indra: It maintained a tailoring and embroidery centre where training as well as work opportunities were offered to young girls. A creche was maintained at Dubrayapet under its auspices. A building was constructed for the creche on a site donated by the municipality. There was a clinic attached to the creche which was run by the government. Prior to 1970, the clinic was run by this institution. However, the pay of helpers in the clinic is met by this institution. The institution took care of cured lepers who were supplied clothes and provided with financial assistance to set up their homes and engage themselves in profitable avocations. Besides providing work to cured lepers, cash doles were also given to them. The expenditure on the education of the children of the cured lepers was also met by this institution. A night school was run for school children as well as adults.

The Junior Chamber: The Pondicherry Junior Chamber was started in the year 1969. The Jaycees evinced a great deal of interest in blood donation campaigns, elocution competitions, donation of clothes for poor patients, city cleanliness campaign, etc.

Kamala Nehru Madhar Sangham, Kadirkamam: This sangham, established in 1969, maintained a balwadi and a creche and provided training in tailoring and embroidery for women. The sangham received financial assistance from the administration, the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and the Department of Social Welfare and the Government of India for carrying on its activities.

All India Women's Conference, Pondicherry Branch: The Pondicherry Branch of the All India Women's Conference which started operating in the Territory from 9 June 1971, was chiefly engaged in organising the rural women folk into associations known as 'Madhar Sanghams' in order to channelise their interest towards social well-being. Since then, the Pondicherry Branch with its main centre located at Ariyankuppam has organised a large number of Madhar Sanghams in the rural areas of Pondicherry and Karaikal.

Social Welfare Services Society, Pondicherry: This society which came into existence in September 1970 sought to promote the welfare of the poor and the physically handicapped by providing facilities for free medical treatment, by conducting free eye, dental, surgical and other camps, and by rendering assistance to the poor affected by natural calamities. The society also operated a Drug Bank and a Milk Distribution Centre each at Vaithikuppam and Kurichchikuppam. The affairs of the society were managed by an eight-member governing body in accordance with the bye-laws framed for the purpose.

Arignar Ambedkar Ilaignar Seerthirutha Mandram, Korkkadu: This mandram started in 1971, engaged itself in such activities as educating the people on family planning, eradicating the evils of untouchability, etc. It also maintained an adult school.

C.A.S.A. (Christian Agency for Social Action): This agency arranged for the distribution of free food donated by the Church World Service and Lutheran World Relief under the 1951 Indo-American agreement to various Voluntary Organisations in the Territory through its contact persons since 1968. About fifty centres in Pondicherry region received free food material from this agency. The activities of this organisation in the Territory were wound up in 1972.

Dr. Ambedkar Reading Room and Night School, Abhishekapakkam: This institution, started in 1974, worked for the uplift of the weaker sections in Abhishekapakkam. It organised a reading-room and a night school in the village to provide adult education for the villagers. It also maintained a creche for the children of working women in the locality.

Anti-Untouchability Movement, Pondicherry: This institution registered in 1974 functioned from 3/11 Netaji Nagar, Pondicherry. It worked for the advancement of scheduled castes in all walks of life. This body maintained three creches for the benefit of working women's children in the surrounding areas with the financial assistance extended by the Government of India.

Tibetan Welfare Society, Pondicherry: This society, established in May 1975, was registered under the Societies Registration Act the next year. The society organised a Children's Home for the benefit of about 50 Tibetan children in the 5-14 age group. The children in the Home were provided free education, boarding and lodging.

The Vincent de Paul Society: The society was first organised in Pondicherry by Fr. L.S. Dupuis in 1852. Although in 1856 it took up the management of the Leprosarium under the direction of the Mission, the Society ceased to exist in 1873. A newly organised unit of the society was in operation in Pondicherry.

The Congregation of St. Louis de Gonzague: Father Michel Ansaldo, the Jesuit, is known to have founded a lay order in 1750 to take care of the children at an orphanage in Pondicherry. On 4 October 1758, the lay order was attached to the Third Order of St. Francis. The convent and the orphanage which were originally located in Vellala Street (now Nadou Chanmugavelayouda Moudaliar Street) were subsequently shifted to the Big Brahmin Street and later to rue St. Ange. On March 1903, a maison de Madeleine was started as an adjunct to the mother convent in Pondicherry. This was subsequently wound up. In its place an orphanage was set up.

The Sacred Heart Convent in South Boulevard with a primary school attached to it was opened in August 1818. The sisters here also maintained a training school for tailoring, embroidery and needle work. (Vide Chapter XV, p. 1279.)

The convent at Ozhukarai opened on 6 February 1893 conducted a free school in the village. A free primary school was opened in Tiruvalluvarnagar on 1 January 1939. On 14 January 1939 another free primary school was opened at Kurichchikuppam. The orphanage attached to the convent at Kurichchikuppam (Orphelinat de St. François d'Assise) was opened on 2 January 1969. The orphans were also provided free education. The convent at Villiyanur started on 1 September 1962 opened a balwadi there on 23 January 1965.

The Congregation of St. Joseph de Cluny: The sisters of this congregation came to serve in the French establishments at the request of M. Desbassyns de Richemont, the then Governor. They opened their first house in Pondicherry in January 1827. Very soon they started a day school, then a boarding and a free school in the town. Sometime later, they opened a maison de couture to impart training for girls in sewing, embroidery, knitting and weaving. In 1860, the sisters took over the atelier and the attached orphanage founded by one Mme. Smith when it was found that her successors could not run the institution. Following their dismissal from Pensionnat des Jeunes Filles and other public institutions in 1903, as part of the laicisation movement.

the sisters opened a free school (French) in the town. In 1946 they opened an English medium school and the first batch of pupils was presented for the matriculation in 1956. In 1968, the high school wing was shifted to is new premises in Laspettai.

The hospice\* in rue La Porte, Pondicherry, under the management of Bon Secours sisters was handed over to the sisters of this Congregation in May 1894. This institution then consisted of an hospice for old men and women, an orphanage, a creche for abandoned babies and an atelier for providing employment to the inmates of the refuge. The refuge started in 1886 was originally run by a lady. In 1875 the sisters took over its management and shifted it to a building erected within the hospice campus. They have also opened a working girls' hostel with limited accommodation for about 40 girls.

In 1896 the Bon Secours Convent in rue Rangapillai was also handed over to the sisters of this Congregation. This institution comprised an orphanage for boys and girls. The orphans in the hospice were later transferred to this convent. In 1945 the creche attached to the hospice was also shifted to this place.

sisters of this Congregation started their work in Karaikal when they went there at the request the administrator. To start with, they opened an atelier (a work room). Shortly after, they opened a school for girls and another for boys. The latter was down in 1851. The former grew into a high school. closed 1856, the started an orphanage for girls and 1897 sisters in an hospice for the aged men and women. A creche was added later. French primary school in Karaikal which had to be closed down in 1913 was however reopened in 1924.

The primary schools opened by the sisters in Kurumbagaram (1870), Grand' Aldée (1871), Kottuchcheri (1884) and Tirunallar (1884) were closed down at the time of the laicisation. Subsequently they opened a free school at Kurumbagaram. An orphanage for girls was opened later as an adjunct to their convent there.

<sup>\*</sup> The hospice is understood to have been started by the Pondicherry Mission in 1858. It was named after Desbassyns de Richemont because the then Deputy of French India had given a large donation towards enlarging the hospice in 1876.

In Mahe the sisters began their work in July 1877. They ran a French medium and a Malayalam medium school, an orphanage, a maison de couture and a refuge there. Following the laicisation, they opened a free school in 1903. In 1940 these institutions were handed over to the sisters of the Apostolic Carmel who soon after left the place, and these institutions had to be closed down. (See also Chapter XVI, pp. 1378-79).

Sisters of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary: The Congregation was founded in Pondicherry by Father Louis Savinien Dupuis on 16 October 1844 to work especially for the promotion of girls' education. With almost seventy branches spread all over Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry, the sisters of this Congregation maintained seven high schools, one teachers' training school, 25 middle schools, 16 primary schools, 19 nursery schools, seven craft centres, 29 children's homes, one child care centre, 12 hospitals, 8 dispensaries, 16 hostels, 14 boarding houses, one children's centre and one home for the aged.

An orphanage was attached to the mother house in Pondicherry. The sisters there also maintained a free nursery school and a free middle school for the benefit of the orphans. The children were then sent to the high school run by the same sisters. Those who did not have an aptitude for learning were taught weaving and needlework by qualified sisters and sent up for examination. Some were sent to the Technical School for girls in Cuddalore where they were trained in needlework, drawing, typewriting, etc. Those who completed their school education were sent to the Teacher Training at Cuddalore. Later, according to the will and wish of the children, their marriages were also arranged by them. The expenses were met from donations, subscriptions, sale proceeds of articles made in the orphanage, funds contributed by the management, government grants and grants from the State Social Welfare Board.

The convent in Nellitoppu was opened on 11 November 1854. Besides running a middle school and a madhar sangham here, the sisters provided training for girls in needle work, dress-making and embroidery. The convent in Reddiyarpalaiyam was opened on 22 July 1861. They opened a free middle school there. The sisters began their work in Ariyankuppam on 25 April 1863. They opened two institutions there, viz. a visitation convent where the old and sick sisters and lay women were taken care of and a branch house which maintained

a free middle school and a madhar sangham. In Muttiyalupettai they opened a middle school and a nursery school. In Villiyanur they conducted two middle schools, one for boys and another for girls and an orphanage for boys. The sisters in the branch house at Karaikal (Pillaiteruvasal), opened on 27 November 1954, looked after their paddy fields and did some social work among the labourers.

Most of the sisters attended to some social work out of school hours and during holidays in the surrounding villages. In Pondicherry two sisters were engaged in social work on a full-time basis. A few nuns were sent to Bihar in 1967 by the congregation to render service to the people there during the famine. Some nuns from this convent went to work among the Bangladesh refugees.

Sisters of the Institute of Foreign Missions: The sisters of Missions Etrangères who came to work among the poor, established St. Antony's Convent in 1945. In 1947, they started an embroidery work centre where a large number of women and girls worked for their livelihood. In 1953, they attached themselves to the Dispensaire Jean Mermoz and started running a child welfare centre alongside. The very next year they started an orphanage and later a boarding for village girls. The same year, a school for needle work, embroidery and tailoring was also started. Shortly after, they opened an elementary school which by 1961 grew up into a high school (also vide Chapter XVI, p. 1379).

Orphelinat des Garçons-Paroisse Notre-Dame des Anges, rue Surcouf, Pondicherry: This orphanage was started by the parish of Notre-Dame-des-Anges in the premises of the old Capuchin Church. This was intended only for boys aged between seven and eighteen years without any distinction of caste, creed or religion. The inmates were fed, clothed, housed and educated. The orphanage was run with the help of donations from benefactors. The orphanage was also in receipt of some assistance from the Pondicherry Municipality.

The Red Cross Society: The Red Cross Society organised by Lt. Col. Gaffiéro in 1936, carried out fund raising campaigns from time to time as part of its activities. In 1940, the society collected Rs. 8,917. In 1942 it was able to collect as much as Rs. 11,065. In October 1940 the society organised a workshop where woollen clothes were made to meet the requirements

of fraternal societies. This society extended help to soldiers in Syria and Lebenon and to the prisoners of war in Berlin during World War II. A brief account of the society's activities used to be published in the Gazette periodically.

This society seems to have become defunct thereafter. However, at the request of the Indian Red Cross Society, a Branch was again started in Pondicherry following a meeting convened by the Lieutenant-Governor, on 29 January 1977 with the Lieutenant-Governor as President, the Director of Health and Family Planning as Secretary and the Pay and Accounts Officer as Treasurer. Since then the society had provided relief to victims of natural calamities like fire, cyclone, etc. in the Territory. It had also a proposal to construct a Disaster Shelter Home in the Territory.

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## CHAPTER—XIX

## PLACES OF INTEREST

The 1961 census counted in all 388 villages spread over in all the four regions of the Territory, apart from the four towns of Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. However, for purposes of revenue administration the Territory was divided into 96 revenue villages. In the course of 10 years between 1961 and 1971, almost the entire rural complex of Mudaliyarpettai Commune covering 18 villages except Kuppam and Papanchavadi had developed urban characteristics so that the whole commune came to be treated as a town. Similarly, 16 out of 49 villages in Ozhukarai\* Commune had developed urban characteristics to give shape to the new town of Ozhukarai. Thus the new towns of Ozhukarai and Mudaliyarpettai emerged only after the 1971 census. During the same period all the 20 villages of Pondicherry Commune had developed urban characteristics to merge with Pondicherry town. Correspondingly the number of census villages in the Territory declined from 388 to 334. In another important development, the whole of Mudaliyarpettai Commune was merged with Pondicherry Commune for purposes of municipal administration. Thus, what for purposes of census was demarcated as two towns, came to be treated as a single town for purposes of municipal administration.

Abhishekapakkam † (Abishekapakkam) †† C. Ariyankuppam A. 400.12 Ha. P. 2,283 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 11.5 km.\*\* south of Pondicherry. The name Abhishekapakkam seems to be the corruption of Azhisapakkam.

- \* This is referred to as Ulavarkarai in the map.
- † The spellings of villages as followed by the Revenue Department are shown within brackets.
- $\dagger \dagger C = Commune$ .
  - A=Area: The area of villages as given in the Village and Town Directory and the Primary Census Abstract of the District Census Handbook are not the same. However, the area given here is taken from the Primary Census Abstract of the Census of India 1971.
  - P = Population.
- \*\* The distance given is according to the arrêté of 31 January 1941 and it is always from Rajnivas in respect of places in Pondicherry region and from the Government House in respect of places in Karaikal region.

An inscription found in the Thiruvendipuram Deivanayagaperumalkoil ascribed to the tenth regnal year of Sadayavarman-II Sundarapandya (1286 A. D.) refers to a Vanavan Pallavaraiyan as belonging to Azhisapakkam. Even Anandarangapillai in the XVIII century refers to the place as Azhisapakkam. Abhishekapakkam is referred to as Archivak in French records.

This village was donated to Governor Dumas by the Moghuls in 1740. Even as late as in 1736, Abhishekapakkam was almost a forest providing shelter for thieves and depredators. But the French laid roads in the area even before they could dream of its donation by Moghuls.2 Le Gentil who was stationed at Pondicherry in 1769 has left us a description of the area in his famous travelogue. According to him, the plain of 'Archiouac'. very fertile in the olden days, was then found covered by sand blown from the east. The forest should have served as a rampart to the interior cultivable lands and the destruction of the forest must have possibly hit the cultivation when Le Gentil visited the area in 1769. To make the soil fit for cultivation, one had to remove the surface soil by one or two feet at least. This was done at many places in the area. But it was altogether a costly operation. He also refers to two big temples in that area, one in 'Archipacum' belonging to Pondicherry and the other in 'Chincacoil' (Singaricoil) under the jurisdiction of the Nawab.3 The temples of Sri Muthalamman and Sri Nallathamby Ayyanar, both ascribed to the eighteenth century, are of some importance.

Designated as a revenue village, it includes the village of Manamedu also. It has the largest concentration of scheduled caste population in any one village in the whole Territory viz., as many as 1,853 (81.17 per cent.) according to the 1971 census.

(Adingapet) C. Bahur
A. 63.56 Ha.
P. 424 (1971)

This village, also known as Adangapattu, falls within the jurisdiction of the Seliyamedu revenue village and is situated at a distance of 17.50 km. from Pondicherry. More than 85 per cent. of the villagers belong to the scheduled castes. The one-day attru thiruvizha celebrated in Sri Muthalamman temple in January attracts several thousand people. A fair is held during the festival when toys, flowers, articles of worship, etc. are brought in for sale.

Akalanganni C. Tirunallar (Agalankannu) A. 96.44 Ha. P. 532 (1971)

This village, situated at a distance of about 9.4 km. from Karaikal, forms part of the Settur revenue village. It is famous for its water-works and temples. The water-works located here serve as the fountain-head bringing succour to the town of Karaikal which faces a shortage a potable sub-soil water.

 Ambagarattur
 C. Tirunallar

 (Ambagarathur)
 A. 270.46 Ha.

 P. 3,507 (1971)

This is the second largest village in Karaikal region situated at a distance of 13.8 km. from Karaikal on the Karaikal-Peralam road. Designated as a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Kannapur. The railway line from Karaikal to Peralam also passes through this village.

The Bhadrakaliamman temple here, though small, is famous. The twelveday annual festival celebrated during May-June attracts many thousands of devotees. The festival is accompanied by a fair to cater to the visiting throng.

 Aranganur
 C. Bahur

 (Aranganoor)
 A. 177.92 Ha.

 P. 892 (1971)

This is a revenue village situated at a distance of 17.5 km. from Pondicherry with jurisdiction extending over Nirnayapet village. It is one of the border villages, the population of which had shown abnormal growth between 1961 and 1971, i.e. from 555 to 892 registering an increase of 61 per cent.

There are three temples here, of which Sri Eramudy Ayyanar temple and Sri Muthalamman temple are of some importance. Every year the image of Sri Eramudy Ayyanar is taken in procession to Ponnaiyar for the attru thiruvizha. But more important still is the one-day vasantha utsavam celebrated in the month of January which attracts several thousand people from the neighbouring villages. A fair takes shape both during the attru thiruvizha and vasantha utsavam.

Ariyankuppam (Ariankuppam)

C. Ariyankuppam

A. 270.25 Ha.

P. 6,333 (1971)

Situated about six km. south of Pondicherry town, it is the headquarters of the Commune Panchayat bearing the same name. It has also been designated as a revenue village with its jurisdiction extending to Kakkayantoppu and Periya Virampattinam. The name Ariyankuppam might be the corruption of Aruhankuppam, probably named after Buddha who was also known as Aruhan. As if to confirm this, Le Gentil the French astronomer located a granite statue of Aruhan (Buddha) in the vicinity of the village in 1769.4 This seems to suggest that the people in this area might have been once followers of Buddhism.

Excavations carried out at 'Arikamedu' near Kakkayantoppu, east of Ariyankuppam revealed the remains of a port town dating back to the first or second century A.D. The Chinese Celadon ware found in the area point to the close association between this place and the Chinese ports between the X and XII centuries.

Sri Drowpathiamman temple, Sri Kanniyakovil, Sri Vinayagar temple and Sri Mariamman temple are the main centres of worship for the Hindus. The Drowpathiamman festival celebrated every alternate year in Sri Drowpathiamman temple, the Annual Festival in Sri Kanniyakovil and the *brahmothsavam* in Sri Vinayagar temple are attended by a large number of devotees.

It is a fast developing village and has been identified as a Market Centre and a Rural Growth Centre serving the needs of about 24 surrounding villages. Several cottage industries such as spinning and weaving, manufacturing of pipes, rice milling, etc. thrive here.

Soon after the arrival of the French, a church dedicated to Notre Dame de l'Immaculée Conception was built in the area on a piece of land donated by Tanappa Modeliar (1690). Some of the statues in the church viz., that of St. Ignatius and St. Xavier are of Portuguese origin and are said to belong to the XVIII century.5 That the 10-day festival of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated in this church at least from the days of Dumas, is evident from the Diary of Anandarangapillai who refers to it on several occasions.6

C. Villiyanur
(Ariyur)
A. 195.01 Ha.
P. 2,178 (1971)

Ariyur, also known as Arugur, is situated at a distance of 17 km. west of Pondicherry on the Pondicherry—Villupuram road. Chinnababusamudram railway station (South Arcot) is about 1.61 km. from here.

An inscription ascribed to the period of Rajadhiraja in Tirubhuvanai temple refers to a place called Arugur, which may be none other than the present village. The inscription also refers to the existence of a Siva temple here although its traces are not to be found today. Sri Ulagavazhi Mariamman temple and Sri Muthu Ulagavazhi Mariamman temple are two notable temples in this village. Many hundreds of devotees gather at the annual festival celebrated in Sri Muthu Ulagavazhi Mariamman temple. Masi magam is another important festival celebrated in Sri Ulagavazhi Mariamman temple in the month of masi (February-March).

It is a revenue village with jurisdiction extending to Anandapuram and Pangur. The village sprung into prominence only after the location of a sugar mill in 1960. The population of this village which was only 1,118 in 1961 increased to 2,178 in 1971, i.e. by more than 90 per cent. It has been identified as a Rural Growth Centre and a market place. Tanks and wells are the main sources of irrigation. Crops grown in this area include sugar-cane, paddy, cumbu, ragi and ground-nut.

 Arumattapuram
 C. Ozhukarai

 (Arumathapuram)
 A. 20.00 Ha.

 P. 1,093 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 7 km. west of Pondicherry. It forms part of the Ozhukarai revenue village and is not to be confused with another village of the same name near Odiyambattu in Villiyanur Commune Panchayat. The name of this village seems to have been derived from the word 'Arumbatai', which means a supplier of victuals (fournisseur). Anandarangapillai so often refers to one Arumbatai Azhagappapillai in his Diary. Hence Arumattapuram appears to be only the corruption of Arumbataipuram. Even the progenies of the said Arumbatai are said to be still living in the village.

The fire-walking festival celebrated during April-May in the local Sri Drowpathiamman temple is of some importance.

This village has also been identified as a market place.

Bahur C. Bahur ( ,, ) A. 894.03 Ha. P. 4,641 (1971)

This village, situated at a distance of 20.5 km. south-west of Pondicherry (via Kirumambakkam) is the headquarters of Bahur Commune Panchayat. It is also designated as a revenue village. The copper plate inscription of Nrpatungavarman (IX century) refers to this place as Vahur which is its earliest known name. Several of the inscriptions in Sri Moolanathar temple also refer to this place as Vahur which seems to have changed into Bahur. During the Chola days it was known as Azhagia Chola caturvedimangalam, probably after Parantaga-II who was also known as 'Sundara Cholan'. Rajaraja-I is understood to have given the village and the surrounding areas as brahmadeya to Brahmins and hence came to be known as caturvedimangalam. Vahur was also the headquarters of Vagur Nadu during the Chola and Pallava days. The recent discovery of burial urns in the vicinity of Bahur pushes back the antiquity of this village to pre-historic times.

The Sri Moolanathar temple, said to have been built by the Rashtrakutas in the IX century, is a protected monument under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India. The fact that there was in this village a vidyasthana—a seat of learning—has been referred to elsewhere. The copper plate inscription of Nrpatungavarman offering three villages to this vidyasthana was discovered by L. Delafon in 1879 and sent to Paris. These plates, reportedly lost afterwards, were discovered by Julien Vinson in 1902. They are now preserved

in the Bibliothèque Nationale—577 (Tamoule-574). The Tamil portion is dated in the eighth year of Ko-Vijaya Nripa. Among the three villages donated to the vidyasthana, Vilangattukaduvanur is one and is now known simply as Kaduvanur. It lies 8.750 km. west of Bahur.

The 10-day brahmothsavam and the one-day attru thiruvizha in Sri Moolanathar temple and the annual festival in Sri Drowpathiamman temple are attended by several hundred people. A fair is held during the brahmothsavam. The Jeyarakini madha koil in the village built by Savarayalu Nayagar, the poet, was consecrated on 28 January 1866.

The famous lake, south of the village, known as 'Kadamberi' also must have been built by the Pallavas who converted several forest areas into fertile fields. Most of the people in this village are either cultivators or agricultural labourers. The lands are irrigated mainly by the waters of Bahur lake which is the second largest in the region and also by wells. Paddy, sugar-cane, ground-nut, ragi and cumbu are some of the major crops grown in the village. This village which has been identified as a rural growth centre and a market place is fast assuming the characteristics of a town. Bahur once served as a week-end resort for families from Pondicherry and an attraction for bird shooters who sometimes stayed in the Inspection Bungalow there.

(Dharmapuram) A. 202.93 Ha.

This village is situated at a distance of 1.8 km. west of Karaikal which is the nearest town. This is a revenue village with jurisdiction extending over Pudutturai and Patchur.

Sri Yazhmurinatheeswarar temple in this village has the distinction of having been visited by Saint Thirugnanasambandar who has sung a pathigam in honour of the reigning deity of the temple (Thirumara III-Pathigam No. 136).

Both wet and dry crops are grown here. Paddy and pulses are the important crops cultivated in this area. Irrigation is carried out with the help of canals.

About 25 per cent. of the population are harijans. More than 80 per cent. of the working force in this village are engaged in agriculture. The rest are employed in other activities for their livelihood.

(Dharmapuri)

C. Ozhukarai

A. 108.00 Ha.

P. 1,381 (1971)

This village, situated at a distance of 6.5 km. from Pondicherry, is famous as a cattle market but does not show other signs of brisk social and economic activities. It forms part of the Ozhukarai revenue village. The villagers are mostly cultivators, agricultural labourers, handloom weavers and construction workers. Sri Drowpathiamman temple is the main centre of worship. The annual festival celebrated in this temple lasts for 25 days.

Embalam ( ,, )

C. NettappakkamA. 203.95 Ha.P. 1,805 (1971)

According to inscriptional evidence, this village is at least nine centuries old. An inscription in Tirubhuvanai refers to the place as Emalam. It also refers to the existence of three temples in the village dedicated to Emalathu Mahadevar, Adhitheswaramudayar and Emalathu Durgaiyar Omkara Sundari. There are no traces of these temples in the village today. Situated at a distance of 17 km. from Pondicherry, Embalam is a revenue village with jurisdiction over Kambalikarankuppam, Nattamedu, Pudukkuppam, Sembipalayam and Thanikuppam. The village can be reached by road from Villiyanur railway station which lies at a distance of about 8 km. from here. It can otherwise be reached by bus. The village has been identified as a pre-historic site and a potential market place.

Erippakkam (Eripakkam) C. Nettappakkam

A. 138.16 Ha.

P. 1,068 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 25.25 km. from Pondicherry (via Kilur) and about 4 km. from Pallineliyanur railway station in South Arcot. It has been designated as a revenue village with jurisdiction extending over Andrasi-kuppam and Nattamedu. According to an inscription ascribed to the tenth regnal year of Sadayavarman Sundarapandya-II (A.D. 1286) found in the Deivanayagaperumal temple at Thiruvendipuram, some lands were offered to that temple in the name of 27 high officials. One of the officials was known as Eripakkamudayan. He may have been the official in charge of Eripakkam. Hence the antiquity of this village may be taken back to the XIII century.8

The annual festival celebrated in Sri Sengalathu Ayyanar temple is a notable event in the village which attracts a few hundred people. A majority of the population belong to the scheduled castes. Agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers. Paddy, sugar-cane and ground-nut are grown here Lands are irrigated by tanks and wells.

Godappakkam (Goodapakkam)

C. VilliyanurA. 384.381 Ha.P. 2,623 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 13.5 km. from Pondicherry (via Villiyanur) amidst an expanse of lush greenery fed by the waters of the nearby Usteri. Since the days of Anandarangapillai the name of the village has not undergone any change. The Villiyanur railway station is at a distance of only about 5 km. from here. It is designated as a revenue village with jurisdiction over Konerikuppam.

It has been identified as one of the market places in Pondicherry region. Mat weaving is a popular handicraft practised in the village. The Inspection Bungalow at Pathukannu only half-a-km. from here was built during the French period. Those who proceeded to Usteri during week ends in those days sought accommodation in this Inspection Bungalow.

सन्यापन जयन

Irulansandi (Irulansanthi)

C. Bahur
A. 186.70 Ha.
P. 1,572 (1971)

This is a fast growing revenue village which lies at a distance of 23. km, from Pondicherry and about 8 km. from Tiruppapuliyur railway station (in South Arcot District). The most significant feature of this village is that its population which was only 425 in 1961 had increased more than three fold within a period of ten years. Situated as it is on the eastern limits of Bahur enclave, it is likely that people from the surrounding villages have migrated to this place to derive the benefits of development programmes implemented by the Pondicherry Administration.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people who cultivate mostly paddy, sugar-cane, ground-nut and ragi.

Kadirkamam
C. Ozhukarai
A. 70.00 Ha.
P. 2,285 (1971)

Kadirkamam lies 4.5 km. west of Pondicherry. It forms part of the Tattanchavadi revenue village. The village is named after God Kadirvel, in whose honour the (village) temple is understood to have been built about 150 years ago. The first settlers of the village are said to have been poor Sengunda Mudaliars who migrated from Kanchipuram about 300 years ago probably during the period of François Martin.

The Muthumariamman temple in the village is famous for its 9-day sedal festival celebrated in the Tamil month of thai (January-February). On all nine days of the festival the idol of Muthumariamman is taken out in ceremonial procession in the evenings. The famous 'sedal' festival takes place on the last day. 'Sedal' is undertsood to mean a self-imposed physical torture undergone by devotees who usually pierce small silver hooks and spears in their body or tongues in fulfilment of some vow. It is said that some devotees pierce as many as 108 needles all over their body. They then go out in a procession after a bath, clad in turmeric stained clothes. Some undergo this ordeal not once but every year throughout their lives. This ritual is observed even by young children, women and aged persons. Even the cattle are put to such ordeal. On the last day of the festival, the goddess is taken round in ceremonial procession in a palanquin decorated with imitation pearls which is known in local parlance as muthu pallakku. The occasion of the festival is marked by a fair.

The six-day festival (of Kadirvel) takes place every year during the Tamil month of masi. The sixth day festival is known as surasamharam, when the destruction of Padmasuran by God Kadirvel is enacted through a mock show. Usually nine villagers perform the role of nine heroes and go out in procession with the deity with swords in hand. A poll planted in Kambathadi street in the village is used as a symbol of Padmasuran. 10 Crackers are fired to mark the killing of Padmasuran. Thirupugal Swamigal of Thiruvamatoor has sung the praise of this Lord Kadirvel.

This village is subject to strong urban influence and the location of industries for the manufacture of safety matches, soap and camphor has imparted an industrial bias to its economy. But the traditional occupation of weaving still holds sway over others.

Kakkallippattu

(Kaiklapet)

C. Mannadipattu

A. 211.81 Ha.

P. 374 (1971)

The village is located north-west of Pondicherry at a distance of 22.5 km. on the bank of Sankaraparani (Gingee) river. It forms part of the Kodattur revenue village. The village may have derived its name from the word 'Kaikolars', a community of professional weavers who must have lived in the area many centuries ago. The word Kaikolar is said to have been derived from kai (hand) and kol (shuttle). Kakkalippattu may probably be the corruption of Kaikolarpattu or Kaikolar patru.

The most convenient way to reach the village from Pondicherry is to take the bus for Villupuram, alight at Kodattur and walk a distance of 2.41 km. in the northerly direction.

Many years ago, a masonry dam was constructed east of the village to divert the waters of Sankaraparani into a big canal leading to Usteri in Villiyanur Commune. But the dam does not directly benefit the agriculturists in the village who have to depend on the seasonal rains and the village tank which is fed by a canal called Narimoonji Odai from a tank near Vikravandi village in South Arcot District. At present mat-weaving is the chief occupation of the majority of the villagers and the mats produced here are in great demand. Korai grass which is the main raw material for mat-weaving is grown on either side of the river bed. The mat-weaving craft is said to have been introduced in the village more than a century ago when some mat weavers migrated to this village, attracted by the abundant growth of korai grass on the banks of Sankaraparani.

Kalapet	Periya Kalapet	Chinna Kalapet
(Periya Kalapet)	C. Ozhukarai	C. Ozhukarai
(Chinna Kalapet)	A. 431.49 Ha.	A. 196.41 Ha.
	P. 2.866	P. 1100

There are two villages bearing this name in the same commune separated by a distance of only about a kilometre. One is known as Periya Kalapet and the other as Chinna Kalapet. Both the villages are situated north of Pondicherry on the Coromandel Coast at a distance of 11.75 km, and 10.5 km, respectively on the Pondicherry—Marakkanam road. While Periya Kalapet is a revenue village with jurisdiction over Kanakachettikulam, Chinna Kalapet forms part of the Pillaichavadi revenue village.

The village was given as a gift to the French by Dawood Khan in 1703. Although the village is referred to as Kalapet or Kalapettai in recent times, the more probable appellation appears to be Kalapattu (or patru). Many villages in Tamil Nadu carry the suffix of patru, which is but the corruption of patru. Even Anandarangapillai refers to the place as Kalapattu. 11 Interestingly the word 'Kala' refers to a particular variety of fish for which the coast is famous, although we are not certain of any connection between the name of this fish and that of the village. According to another explanation, the name is said to have been derived from the word 'Caliphate' although this suggestion seems farfetched.12

Kalapet was once famous for its forest wherefrom François Martin is understood to have brought all the wood required for building houses in the town. This slowly led to its ultimate denudation. Geologists believe that the Kalapet ravines must have developed only in the course of the last three hundred years.

Being a coastal village, fishing is the main occupation of the people here. Periya Kalapet is in fact the largest fishing village in the Territory. Vanniars who form the next predominant community in the village are mostly engaged in agriculture. It has also been identified as a rural growth centre.

Kalitirtakuppam (Kalithirthalkuppam) C. MannadipattuA. 377.95 Ha.P. 2,196 (1971)

This village which lies at a distance of 25 km. west of Pondicherry (via Villiyanur) is also known as Kalithirthalkuppam. It is a revenue village with jurisdiction extending to the neighbouring Andipalaiyam, Kuchchippalaiyam and Silkaripalayam. Some years ago, 460 copper coins belonging to the period of Rajaraja-I were discovered here indicating thereby that this place must have been inhabited from the Chola days. 13 The fact that there are eleven tanks and fourteen temples in this village is enough to exemplify its importance. The fire-walking festival celebrated every year in Sri Drowpathiamman temple attracts a large number of people.

Kalmantapam ( ,, )

C. NettappakkamA. 120.11 Ha.P. 641 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 2.25 km. from Nettappakkam and forms part of Pandacholanallur revenue village. It must have derived its name from the stone mandapam located here. The walls of the mandapam raised

on carved octa gonal pillars, carry the images of deities, the avatars, maidens waving the *samaras*, or in dancing postures, etc. all carved in relief. The area has also been identified as a pre-historic/archaeological site. This is one of the few potential market places in the region.

Kanniyakovil (Kannikovil) C. Bahur

A. 94.67 Ha.

P. 487 (1971)

This village, situated at a distance of 17.5 km. from Pondicherry, forms part of the Manappattu revenue village. It must have derived its name from the temple built in honour of Patchai Vazhiyamman who is otherwise known as Kanni. With the passage of time, the village itself came to be called after the village temple. A 10-day utsavam is celebrated with a great deal of fanfare in the temple. The theemithi ceremony is held on the tenth day. A fair is held in the village during these days. Many thousands gather to celebrate the occasion. A one-day flower festival is also celebrated in the same temple.

There is also a durgha in the village.

#### Karaikal:

Several explanations are offered for the name Karaikal. The Imperial Gazetteer gives it the meaning of 'fish pass'. There is no doubt that the name is a combination of two words viz., 'Karai' and 'Kal'. The word 'Karai' has several meanings, one of which is lime mix. 'Kal' may stand for the canal. Based on this, it has been suggested that the name Karaikal may mean a canal built of lime mix. The traces of such a canal are nowhere evident now. According to Julien Vinson, the town is said to have been known as 'Karagiri' in Sanskrit. 14

सन्यापन जयन

In Peria Puranam Poet Sekkizhar describes the town as 'கன்னி மாமதில் சூழ் மாடக் காரைக்கால்', i.e. the Karaikal of many mansions surrounded by an impregnable wall.15 In that the poet relates the life story of one Punithavathi who abandoned the material pleasures of life to devote herself

entirely to a life of prayer and penance to signify her devotion to Lord Siva. She was called 'Karaikal Ammayar' conveniently after the town which must have been famous already. The town is referred to in the puranas as . 'Karai vanam' where Sri Dakshayani, consort of Lord Siva is said to have performed penance in human form, for the benefit of mankind. Later on, it came to be sanctified as the birth place of Karaikal Ammayar, one of the 63 celebrated Saivite saints known as Nayanmars. The later Pramanda Puranam in Sanskrit refers to the place as Sagamparipuram in honour of Sagamparidevi. Jouveau Dubreuil points out that Karaikal is mentioned in a copper plate inscription preserved in the Museum of Leyde University in Holland. The copper plate records the grant of certain privileges to a Buddhist monastery at Nagappattinam. 16 It refers to a highway named after Karaikal as the western boundary of the If the highway should be named after Karaikal the conjecture is that it must have been a prominent town in those days. Jouveau Dubreuil also concludes that Karaikal was 'la capitale du pays au Nord de Negapatam'. The period that followed is, however, shrouded in darkness. In 1739 the town of Karaikal and the villages surrounding it were ceded to the French by the King of Thaniavur (for further details see Chapter-I).

Karaikal town, with a population of 26,080 is situated on the northern bank of Arasalar, an effluent of Kaveri. It is a neatly built town with straight roads cutting each other at right angles. The cement paved side-walks along some of the main roads are provided at regular intervals with open squares exposing the ground for growing shady trees, although a large number of them seems to have been uprooted by the frequent cyclonic storms.

Being the administrative headquarters of the region, the Administrator, takes his residence in the town at the Government House. The present Government House was built in the year 1838 with a rectangular open ground in front.

Among the temples in Karaikal, those of Sri Uppiliamaniar, Sri Kailasanathar, Nitya Kalyanaperumal, Karaikal Ammayar, Sri Parvatheeswaraswami temple (Karaikovilpattu) and Sri Kothandaramaswami are famous. One interesting aspect about the management of all these temples is that properties are held in common for all the eleven temples of Karaikal and the income is utilised for the maintenance, daily rituals and festivals of all the temples. The Mangani festival is said to be celebrated for many centuries in the Karaikal Ammayar temple. The administration gives an annual grant of Rs. 500 for the celebration of the Mangani festival.

The Church of Our Lady of Angels built in 1891 is the chief place of worship for catholics in the town. The thettaravu madha festival is celebrated on the 15 of August every year. The festival commences with the flag hoisting ceremony on the sixth of August. On the tenth day, the statue of the Blessed Virgin, mounted on a beautifully decorated car, is taken out in procession along the main streets surrounding the church.

Of the various Muslim festivals, the Kandoori festival in the Karaikal durgha is the most important from the point of view of attendance as well as the interest evinced by the public. The festival is celebrated in honour of Syed Dawood, the muslim saint born at Bukkara, the capital of Turkistan. He came to India in search of his spiritual guide Halareth Syed Ahamed Kalkhel Diwan Oliulla of Tiruchchirapalli, spent his last years in Karaikal and passed away on 24 February 1829 (i.e. 1244 of the Muslim era) at the ripe age of 120 years. The body was entombed in the durgha at Karaikal where the annual Kandoori festival is celebrated. The festival which is marked by processions, music and dance is brought to a finale with an elaborate display of fire-works.17

Situated 16 km. north of Nagapattinam, it is also the terminus of the railway line which connects it with Peralam.

सन्यपव जयने

Karaikovilpattu (Kovilpathu) C. Karaikal

A. 316.05 Ha.

P. 3,494 (1971)

This village, ordinarily called Kovilpathu, lies at a distance of about two km. north-east of Karaikal. This is a revenue village with jurisdiction extending to Pillaittiruvasal. Kovilpathu (or more precisely Kovilpatru) is a common expression which means lands belonging to or adjoining temples. The village is referred to as Thiruthelicherry in religious lores. It may then be assumed that this village must have been the abode of an important temple. This is one of the four places in Karaikal region visited by Saint Thirugnana-sambandar who sang a pathigam in honour of Sri Parvatheeswaraswamy, the reigning deity of its principal temple. According to local tradition, Lord Siva assumed the name of Parvatheeswara after his marriage with Parvathi, who was born as daughter to Katyayana Maharishi at Thiruthelicherry, following her death out of shame at her father Dakshan's sacrificial penance (velvi).18 The statue of Parvathi in a state of thava and that of Siva in the guise of a tiller, now in the temple are considered unique.

Surasamharam, Vijayadasami, Kadalmuzhukku and Thiruvadhirai festivals are celebrated in Sri Parvatheeswaraswamy temple. The Sri Kothandaramaswami temple is situated opposite to the Siva temple. It is said that the panchaloka statues of Kothandaramar, Seethadevi, Lakshmanan and Hanuman now in the temple were discovered from one of the adjacent fields a few years ago. 19 Among the festivals celebrated in Sri Kothandaramaswami temple, the two-day masi magam observed during February-March attracts several thousands. Side by side a fair is also held in the village.

In the course of 10 years between 1961 and 1971 the population of this village had increased from 1,963 to 3,494. Lands being very fertile, both wet and dry crops are grown here. Irrigation is provided by canals. Paddy is grown as wet crop and pulses as dry crops. There are a few rice mills in this area. The people in this village are employed in different occupations such as agriculture, construction, trade and commerce, manufacturing concerns and other services.

## Karaiyamputtur

(Karaiyambuthur)

C. Bahur

A. 410.11 Ha.

P. 1,977 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 32 km. from Pondicherry (via. Bangara vaykkal). This is a revenue village with jurisdiction extending to Chinna Karaiyamputtur.

It is not known how the village acquired this peculiar name which literally means a place of white-ant hills. Even Anandarangapillai refers to the place as Karaiyamputhur. 20 The village is otherwise well-known for its 10-day utsavam celebrated in Sri Drowpathiamman temple. The festival is accompanied by a fair. There is also an Inspection Bungalow (P.W.D.) in the village. It has also been identified as a potential market place.

### Karakalachcheri

(Karakalacherry)

C. Niravi

A. 75 Ha.

P. 884 (1971)

Situated at a distance of about 3 km. from Karaikal, this village is remembered for its fort, the remains of which have almost disappeared now. Anandarangapillai refers to the place as Karukkilacherry.21 It forms part of Akkaravattam revenue village.

Sri Mariamman temple and Sri Vella Vinayagamurthi temple are the centres of worship in the village.

Kariyamanikkam

(Karimanickam)

C. Nettappakkam

A. 256.88 Ha.

P. 965 (1971)

This village is situated at a 'distance of 27.5 km. from Pondicherry and 3.2 km. from Pallineliyanur railway station (South Arcot). Villupuram is the nearest town from here. This is one of the few villages, the population of which had declined from 991 in 1961 to 965 in 1971. However the village has been identified as a Rural Growth Centre and as a market centre. One of the harijan hostels in Pondicherry region is also located here.

Designated as a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Thulukan-palayam, Kariyamanikkam, Kuchchipalaiyam, Molappakkam and Suramangalam.

Karkilambakkam

(Karklampakkam)

C. Nettappakkam

A. 328.88 Ha.

P. 1,740 (1971)

Karkilambakkam lies at a distance of 15.25 km. south-west of Pondicherry (via. Abhishekapakkam). It can also be reached by road via. Villiyanur. An XI century inscription in Tirubhuvanai refers to a village by the name Kazhukulampakkam. It is likely that Karkilambakkam is the corruption of Kazhukulampakkam. The reigning deity of the village temple was called Kazhukulampakkathu Mahadevar. Anandarangapillai refers to the place as Karukalampakkam. 22 It is designated as a revenue village.

Sri Kumareswarar temple, Sri Mariamman temple, Sri Drowpathiamman temple and Sri Vinayagar temple are all said to be more than two hundred years old. A choultry said to have been built more than hundred years ago can be seen here in a dilapidated condition. The six-day annual festival celebrated in Sri Drowpathiamman temple during April-June attracts several hundred people. The village has been identified as having potentials of a market place.

Kil Kasakkudi	Kil Kasakkudi	Mel Kasakkudi
Mel Kasakkudi	C. Kottuchcheri	C. Nedúngadu
(Keezhakasakudy)	A. 375.44 Ha.	A. 463.32 Ha.
(Melakasakudy)	P. 1,028 (1971)	P. 1,204 (1971)

This is one of the twin villages in Karaikal region bearing the common name of Kasakudi, although their separate identities are maintained by the prefix Kil or Mel depending on their location on the east or west respectively. According to the Chola inscriptions in the temple, the place was known as Udayachandra caturvedimangalam or Kayakudi. Kil Kasakudi is a revenue village and its jurisdiction extends to the adjacent fishing village.

Kil Kasakkudi lies at a distance of 4 km. north of Karaikal on the Karaikal—Tarangambadi road. The famous Kasakkudi copper plates discovered in this village in 1879 by M.J. Delafon and ascribed to Nandivarman-II throw much light on the high cultural level of the people who lived in this part of the country during the Pallava days. The Siva temple in the village is the principal centre of worship.

Mel Kasakkudi divided into two parts known as Thenpati and Vadapati lies at a distance of about 7 km. from Karaikal on the Karaikal—Nedungadu road. This is also a revenue village with its jurisdiction extending to Kil Puthagaram, Thiruvengadapuram and Kanjipuram Kovilpathu. Sri Varadaraja Perumal temple here, said to belong to the XII century, s protected as an ancient monument. Some of the stone carvings in the temple add to its monumental value. The Vaikunda Ekadesi and Masi Magam festivals celebrated in this temple attract several hundred devotees from the surrounding villages.

Thiruvathirai, Chithirai Pournami and Masi Magam festivals are celebrated in Sri Naganathaswamy temple. The 10-day annual festival in the Roman Catholic church is celebrated in June.

Katterikuppam	Katteri*	Kuppam
(Kattery-Kuppam)	C. Mannadipattu	C. Mannadipattu
	A. 237.66 Ha.	A. 303.85 Ha.
	P. 920 (1971)	P. 1.087 (1971)

Though for purposes of revenue administration etc., Katteri and Kuppam are treated as two villages, both are known under the common name of Katterikuppam It is located at a distance of 21.5 km. from Pondicherry via. Valudavur and 20.50 km. if approached via. Suttukanni. It is about 9.7 km. from Chinnababusamudram railway station. This village has been identified as a market place.

A road running across the village serves as the boundary line separating Katteri from the so-called Kuppam. While in Kuppam as many as 528 belong to the scheduled castes, in Katteri the number is only 26.

Kirumambakkam C. Bahur (Kirumampakkam) A. 438.96 Ha. P. 2,303 (1971)

Kirumambakkam is situated at a distance of 15.5 km. from Pondicherry. It is designated as a revenue village with jurisdiction extending to Itchangadu, Aladimedu, and Pannittittu. According to certain inscriptions Kirumambakkam was known as Kirumampathi.23 Anandarangapillai however refers to the place as Kirumampakkam in the XVIII century.24 Cuddalore is the nearest town which lies at a distance of 11 km. and Bahur at a distance of four km. It can be reached by any bus plying between Pondicherry and Cuddalore. It appears that in the XVIII century the muslims had an entrenchment at 'Crimambankum', In 1712 the place came under a sudden attack by the English, a description of which is left by Captain Roach.25

More than half of the population in the village belong to the scheduled castes. Lands are irrigated by tanks and wells. Important crops grown in this village are paddy, sugar-cane, ragi, plantain and casuarina. Rice milling, manufacture of earthenware, pottery and sundry hardwares are the industries which provide employment to those other than agriculturists.

 Kilur
 C. Villiyanur

 (Kizhur)
 A. 135.15 Ha.

 P. 638 (1971)

Though a small village about 21 km. from Pondicherry (via Mangalam), it rose to prominence in 1954 when elected representatives of the former French establishments met here on 18 October and voted in favour of merger with the Indian Union finally clinching the issue of freedom for French India. A memorial was unveiled on 16 August 1972 to commemorate the historic event. The nearest railway station is Villiyanur at a distance of 11.27 km. Villagers celebrate the annual festival in Sri Muthumariamman and Vinayagar temples.

It is a revenue village with its jurisdiction extending to Sivarantagam. The villagers are mostly engaged in agriculture for which both flow irrigation and lift irrigation are adopted. Principal crops grown in this village are paddy, sugar-cane, ragi, tapioca and ground-nut.

 Korkkadu
 C.
 Nettappakkam

 (Korkadu)
 A.
 346.44 Ha.

 P.
 1,339 (1971)

The village lies at a distance of 15 km. from Pondicherry (via. Villiyanur). This is a revenue village where Vanniars and Reddiars are predominant. Its name seems to suggest that it must have been some kind of a forest in by-gone days. In fact an XI century inscription at Tiruvakkarai refers to a village by name Kokattur. It is also likely that this name had changed into Korkadu.

(Korkumedu)

C. Ariyankuppam

A. 30.01 Ha.

P. 204 (1971)

Although this is a small village situated at a distance of 11.5 km. from Pondicherry, it assumes some importance on account of the five-day annual festival in St. Anne's church held in July. It is attended by several hundred people. This village forms part of the Tavalakuppam revenue village.

 Kottuchcheri
 C.
 Kottuchcheri

 (Kottucherry)
 A.
 586.90 Ha.

 P.
 2,991 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 5.7 km. from Karaikal and is the headquarters of Kottuchcheri Commune Panchayat. This is a revenue village with jurisdiction extending to the fishing village of Akkampettai.

Nearly two-thirds of the working force in the village are engaged in agriculture. Sri Kodeeswaramudayar temple is the principal place of worship enjoying an ample income. A statue, a broken kuthuvilakku and some other vessels used for temple worship were unearthed from Perumalkoil maidan in this village on 28 March 1972.

The Kottuchcheri *macuary* with a population of 386 is situated close to the sea-coast where the people are mostly engaged in fishing.

C. Bahur

A. 23.68 Ha. (Krishnavaram)

P. 485 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 13.5 km. from Pondicherry and forms part of the Uchchimedu revenue village. It assumes some importance on account of Sri Pattabiramaswamy temple. The one-day attru thiruvizha held in the month of January every year attracts several thousand people from all surrounding villages. During this festival the images of several deities are brought here in procession for the ceremonial holy immersion in the river. The festival is marked by a fair. It has been identified as a pre-historic/ archaeological site.

Bahur

85.73 Ha.

P. 603 (1971)

(Kudiyiruppupalayam)

This village is situated at a distance of 18 km. from Pondicherry and forms part of Seliyamedu revenue village. The one-day theerthavari festival held in Sri Muthalamman temple is a major attraction. People from surrounding villages gather in thousands during the festival, which is accompanied by a fair. More than 86 per cent. of the population in the village belong to the scheduled castes. Although the village is referred to as Kudi-irruppupalayam with some refinement, the local people call it as Kuruvippalayam or Kurippalayam.

C. Mannadipattu

A. 84.41 Ha.

P. 482 (1971)

This village which forms part of Tettambakkam revenue village, lies at a distance of 20 km. from Pondicherry. Although a small village in terms of population, its fame rests chiefly on the popularity of Sri Mariamman temple. The one-day Masi Magam festival celebrated here, usually on the banks of Sankaraparani river, during February-March every year, attract smany thousands of people from all surrounding villages. The occasion is also marked by a fair. This is among the few villages in the Territory where there are no scheduled caste members at all.

(Kumarapalayam)

Kunichampattu

(Kunitchampet)

C. Mannadipattu

A. 408.52 Ha.

P. 2,174 (1971)

Situated at a distance of 26 km. from Pondicherry, this is a revenue village with jurisdiction extending to Kondareddipalayam as well. This is one of the several villages the name ending of which has mistakenly changed from pattu to pet.

The 18-day long annual festival celebrated in Sri Drowpathiamman temple during March-April is marked by a fair. The festival attracts several hundred devotees.

C. Nedungadu

(Kurumbagaram)

A. 135.54 Ha.

P. 514 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 11.215 km. from Karaikal. As a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Nallattur, Kosatheru, Melpadugai, Adaikalapuram, Narikurumbai, Vadakattalai, Agarakurumbagaram, Mattalangudy and Panchatcharapuram. It is described as a pensioners' paradise.

The people in the village are mostly engaged in agriculture. More than 57 per cent. of the population are harijans. Both wet and dry crops are grown in the area. Paddy and pulses are the principal crops cultivated. Nandalar serves as the source of irrigation. Sri Lakshminarayanaperumal temple is the principal centre of worship where Vaikunta Ekadesi is celebrated with some measure of festivity.

Many of the Christians in this village are understood to be the progenies of a few families which migrated to this village from Pagasalai in Nannilam Taluk. Pulavar Muthusamypillai, the first biographer of Veeramamunivar and Head Native Master at the College of Fort St. George in the early years of the XIX century may be described as the most illustrious son of this village.26 The church in the village was built in the year 1854.

Kuruvinattam

C. Bahur

(Kuruvinatham)

A. 263.02 Ha.

P. 1,290 (1971)

This village is at a distance of 27.75 km. from Pondicherry. As a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Soriyankuppam as well. According to inscriptional evidence, this village is understood to have been known as Kuruvimedu in the olden days.<sup>27</sup> Anandarangapillai however refers to the place as Kuruvinatham and it continues to be known as such.<sup>28</sup> This is

one of the four villages, the population of which has registered a sharp decline from 1,810 in 1961 to 1,290 in 1971. Agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers and the important crops grown in this village include paddy, sugar-cane, *cumbu* and ragi. Tanks and wells are the main sources of irrigation.

The temples of Sri Drowpathiamman, Sri Vinayagar, Sri Pidari, Sri Ayyanar and Sri Mariamman are the chief landmarks of this otherwise quiet village. A large number of people gather to celebrate the annual festival in the Drowpathiamman temple.

Madagadippattu (Madagadipet)

C. MannadipattuA. 196.23 Ha.P. 1,135 (1971)

This village, identified as a pre-historic and archaeological site, is situated at a distance of 24 km. from Pondicherry. It is a revenue village with jurisdiction extending to Madagadippattupalaiyam, Nallur and Nallur Kuchchippalaiyam. Kundankuzhi appears to be the earliest name of Madagadippattu according to inscriptions. Kundankuzhi means a deep and beautiful water storage. The name Madagadippattu is said to have come into vogue only after the period of Vikrama Cholan. As in the case of many village names, the suffix patru or pattu has ultimately changed into 'pet'.

सन्यापन जयन

The village is famous for its Eswaran temple originally built entirely from stones during the period of Rajaraja—I in the XI century. It is now a historical monument under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India. The damaged structure of the temple is understood to have been rebuilt some years ago. In the process, the stones were displaced, rendering decipherment of the temple inscriptions very difficult. Some of the stone slabs bearing inscriptions are said to be found in some private gardens or used in some wells. One of the dwarabalaka statues of this temple is installed within the General Hospital campus in Pondicherry. The statues of Vinayaka, Durga, Brahma and Lingotbhava are now in the French Institute at Pondicherry.

The village, identified as a Rural Growth Centre and a market centre, is famous for its cattle shandy, Besides cattle, handloom cloth, vegetables, groceries, dry fish and toys are some of the items purchased and sold here.

 Madukkarai
 C. Nettappakkam

 ( ,, )
 A. 305.84 Ha.

 P. 3,119 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 28.5 km. from Pondicherry town It appears to have acquired this name because, sometime in the past, it is said to have been close to a *madu* (a tank), and Madukkarai literally means the banks of a *madu* the traces of which are said to be found even now.

This village is famous for its Sri Marakkaleeswarar temple, although the festivals there do not attract much crowd. But the six-day annual festival held at Sri Drowpathiamman temple and Koothandavar temple during May-June attracts several thousands. A fair is held side by side to cater to the festival crowd. This is a developed village and has been identified as a potential market place.

#### Mahe:

Mahe town which lies at a distance of 6.44 km. south-east of Tellicherry, is the headquarters of the region. The original Malayalam name of Mahe is said to be 'Mayyazhi' which means the 'black river mouth'. It was also known as 'Maihi' in an abridged form. But it was the French Commodore Pardaillan who changed it into Mahe to perpetuate the memory of Mahe de La Bourdonnais. Mahe was once a place of considerable trade but lost its importance after its successive fall into Bri ish hands. In 1782 its fortifications were not only razed to the ground but the town was also almost entirely burnt-

The region, comprising an area of 9 sq. km., had a population of 23,134 according to the 1971 census. The town alone has a population of 8,972. Situated amidst a picturesque setting on a small hill, at the mouth of the river by the same name, it lies surrounded on all three sides by Kerala. Some of the chief buildings in Mahe are situated along the river bank. The coastal road from Kozhikode to Tellicherry and Cannanore passes through the town. Covered by a dense mass of coconut palms, the area is noted for the fertility of its soil and the salubrity of its climate.

The Roman Catholic church, said to have been built first by the French in 1736, assumed its present shape in 1855, thanks to the devotion of some French marines. It is now an important landmark in the town. The 10-day St. Theresa's festival celebrated during October attracts a large number of people of different castes and communities. A fair also takes shape in the course of the 10-day festival. The statue of St. Theresa of Avila is kept exposed on the occasion for public veneration.

Manaveli (Manavely) C. AriyankuppamA. 115.70 Ha.P. 3,274 (1971)

As many as four villages in Pondicherry region are known by the name Manaveli, viz. one in Ariyankuppam Commune Panchayat, two others near Kodattur and Kalitirtakuppam in Mannadipattu Commune Panchayat and yet another near Odiyambattu in Villiyanur Commune Panchayat. The village dealt with here is the one in Ariyankuppam Commune Panchayat. This village lies at a distance of 7.8 km. (via Ariyankuppam) south of Pondicherry. As a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Manaveli, Nonanguppam, Odavely and Chinna Virampattinam.

Sri Mariamman temple, Sri Drowpathiamman temple and Sri Pandurangar temple are the principal centres of worship in the village. The fire-walking festival in Sri Drowpathiamman temple and the annual festival in Sri Mariamman temple attract a large number of devotees.

(Mangalam)

C. Villiyanur A. 250.00 Ha. P. 1.074 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 13.5 km. from Pondicherry and about 15.6 km. from Villiyanur railway station. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Vadamangalam which, as its name suggests, lies on the north. The villages of Kil Sattamangalam and Mel Sattamangalam are not far away from here.

An inscription in the Gangai Varagha Eswarar temple in Tirukkanji ascribed to the period of Kulothunga-I refers to one Cholakonar who is described as Puddhamangalamudayar. 29 It is likely that this Puddhamangalam is the old name of Mangalam. The close proximity of several villages under the common name of Mangalam seems to suggest that it must have been once a famous Buddhist centre. Interestingly, this is one of the spots identified as a prehistoric/archaeological site.

Mannadipattu (Mannadipet)

C. MannadipattuA. 76.36 Ha.P. 1,422 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 25 km. from Pondicherry. Although the commune is named after this village, it is not its headquarters. As a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Monbranpet, Sombattu and Tirukkanur. The village of Monbranpet may have been named after the Montbrun family. About 500 people attend the annual festival celebrated in the Sri Drowpathiamman temple at Mannadipattu.

## Mudaliyarpettai

( Mudaliarpet )

As per the census of 1971 the best part of Mudaliyarpettai Commune came to be treated for the first time as an urban area. With a population of 42,933, it forms part of the Pondicherry urban agglomeration embracing besides Mudaliyarpettai the residential settlements of Kalarpet, Karamanikkuppam, Kirapalaiyam Kommapakkam, Kusappalaiyam, Murungappakkam, Nainarmantapam, Nellitoppu, Orlayanpet, Ottampalayam, Pillaitottam, Pudupalaiyampet, Sakkilipalayam, Savannapet, Subrayapillai chatiram, Thengathittu and Veeraraghavamudalithottam

Mudaliyarpettai, situated at a distance of three km. south of Pondicherry on the Pondicherry-Cuddalore road, is the industrial hub of Pondicherry where three textile mills and several small scale industrial units are located.

Kirapalaiyam was once very close to the estuary of the now blocked Pondicherry river. It now lies north of Thengathittu and covers the two localities of Vamba-Kirapalaiyam and Olandai-Kirapalaiyam. While the former lies within the limits of Pondicherry urban area, the latter falls under the Mudaliyarpettai Commune. It has been suggested that the word 'Olandai' is the corruption of 'Hollandais' as the Dutch are believed to have settled in the area before the arrival of the French. This explanation is however not acceptable. An inscription in Tiruvandarkovil refers to a place called Uzhandai and it is quite likely that it refers to this Uzhandai. There is no proper explanation for the name Kirapalaiyam. It is likely that the village must have developed into a 'palayam' or a settlement of mercenary soldiers subsequently.

Thengathittu, about 4.8 km. from Pondicherry, lies close to the sea coast surrounded on all sides by Uppar (Uppanar) formed by the backwaters of the Bay of Bengal merging with Ariyankuppam river. Thengathittu literally means a coconut island.30

Kusappalaiyam lies at a distance of two km. west of Pondicherry flanked by Nellitoppu on the south and Pudusaram on the north. Understandably, the village must have been named after the predominant community in the village, namely Kosavar or Kuyavar (potters) from which the name 'Kosapalayam' or the more preferred 'Kuyavarpalayam' must have been derived.

It is certain that the settlement is more than two centuries old, as Anandarangapillai quite often refers to the village in his diary. It was François Martin who invited the potters to Pondicherry and encouraged them to carry on their traditional craft of toy-making, etc. with a view to exporting the products to France and other countries. The potters have not always and naturally quite a number of them been prosperous have since migrated to outside places. The number of people engaged in the traditional craft has dwindled considerably of late. Though similar toys are made in places like Murungappakkam, Ariyankuppam, etc. those of Kusapalaiyam have a distinct character. They make a wide variety of toys depicting the costumes, the cultural arts and the deities of South India.

Murungappakkam is situated at a distance of 5 km. south of Pondicherry town on the northern bank of Ariyankuppam river. It is noteworthy that Silapathigaram refers to a Maruvurpakkam near the ancient Pumpuhar. According to one scholar, Murungappakkam is the corruption of Marungaipakkam.31 It is however interesting to note that a fragmentary inscription found on the north basement of the newly constructed Vinayagar temple inside the *prakara*, refers to Uzhandai and Murungaipakkam. In Murungappakkam the six-day annual festival celebrated in Sri Drowpathiamman temple, sometime during April-June, attracts several thousands of people. The festival is also marked by a fair. Kommapakkam is referred to as such and as Commayapakkam by Anandarangapillai. The five-day Sedal festival celebrated in Sri Sengazhuneeramman temple at Kommapakkam during June attracts many hundred devotees.

Orlayanpet lies on the Pondicherry-Villupuram road, about two km. west of Pondicherry town. The name of this locality is probably linked to Orléans of France. As Anandarangapillai refers to the place in his diary, its existence since his days is confirmed. Nellitoppu literally means a gooseberry garden. It is located just three km. west of Pondicherry town alongside the Pondicherry—Villupuram road. The foundation for Our Lady of Assumption church in the locality was laid on 18 January 1841.

Pillaitottam lies at a distance of about 8 km. west of Pondicherry along Tindivanam road. The name 'Pillai' refers to Thiruvengadampillai, the uncle of the Diarist. Understandably, the Anandarangapillai family must have had a garden in the locality.

Ottampalayam is a small locality with few amenities and of little importance. But its origin must have been as a palayam of mercenary soldiers belonging to the Otten community. Puduppalaiyampet and Sakkilipalayam are adjacent localities not so developed, although it is provided with such amenities as road, electricity and protected drinking water. Karamanikkuppam is relatively more developed with amenities like road, electricity and protected drinking water. Kalarpet. Nainarmantapam, Savannapet and Subrayapillai chatiram are backward chunks with few public amenities.

The name Veeraraghavamudalithottam is self-explanatory, as it should have acquired the name by the very fact that Veeraraghavamudali must have had a garden in the locality. It is also a backward area inhabited mostly by the poor and with very few public amenities.

A majority of the working force in Orlayanpet, Karamanikkuppam, Kirapalaiyam, Murungappakkam. Nellitoppu and a sizeable population of Kommapakkam and Nainarmantapam are mill workers. Kommapakkam, Kusappalaiyam, Murungappakkam, Mudaliyarpettai, Nellitoppu and Pillaitottam have been identified as market places.

Muttirapalaiyam (Muthirapalayam)

C. Ozhukarai A. 85.00 Ha. P. 1,822 (1971)

Muttirapalaiyam which forms part of the Tattanchavadi revenue village lies 5.5 km. west of Pondicherry. It is likely that the original inhabitants of this village belonged to the Mutratcha or Muttirajulu or Muttarasan caste of the Telugu country. They were employed by the Vijayanagar kings to defend the frontiers of their dominions and were honoured with the title of palayakars. The members of this caste are known as Muthiriyar or Palaiyakkaran in the Tamil country. 32 Anandarangapillai also refers to the place as Muthirapalayam. 33

There is an interesting story behind Ayikulam-a tank in the village-named after a devadasi called Ayi. According to this tale, when Krishnadevaraya, the Vijayanagar ruler was on a tour around South India in the company of his minister Appaji, the entourage made a halt at Villiyanur. Once while passing through the village, it seems the king saw a dazzling mansion spreading a captivating aroma all around. Devaraya and his Minister taking it to be a temple, offered their obeisance. When told that it was the residence of a danseuse named Ayi, the king in a fit of anger ordered the mansion to-

be razed to the ground and directed that a well and a tank be dug on the very same spot thereby causing profound grief and deep anguish to this lady accomplished in the arts. She sought the king's indulgence by offering to dig the well and the tank herself and did accordingly. The Ayi tank is thus believed to have been dug sometime in the early part of the XVI century.

The 11-day annual festival celebrated in Sri Sengazhuneer Mariamman temple during June-July attracts several thousand people from all nearby villages. The festival is accompanied by a fair. The village, with as many as 22 public service institutions, has been identified as a Rural Growth Centre with considerable social and economic activities.34 Situated as it is in the middle of seven ribbon villages, it serves as a shopping centre for the rural folks.

(Nallambal) C. Tirunallar (Nallambal) A. 95.83 Ha. P. 1,369 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 12.3 km. from Karaikal on the Peralam road, and forms part of the Nallazhandur revenue village. Sri Tantonreeswarar temple ascribed to the Chola period is an important landmark in the village. The outer walls of the temple carry many inscriptions which do not appear to have been published so far. There are also a few exquisitely carved granite statues in the temple.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers. Both wet and dry crops are raised in this village. Paddy is the main wet crop. Plantain and pulses are the chief dry crops. Noolar serves as the main source of irrigation.

Nedungadu C. Nedungadu ( ,, ) A. 178.20 Ha. P. 1,736 (1971)

Situated at a distance of 10.3 km. from Karaikal town, it is the head-quarters of Nedungadu Commune Panchayat. As a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Keezhannavasal, Melannavasal, Nedungadu, Agara Mankudi, Paruttikkudi, Kil Ponbetti and Mel Ponbetti. The most sensational find of bronze images in the Territory was reported from this village in 1948. They included the images of Pillayar, Manickavasagar, Thirugnanasambandar, Skandan, Uma, Jnanasakti (a pair), Sivakamasundari, dancing Siva (Anandatandavam) besides a trident, a conche, a pair of sandals, a copper tripod and a plate. 35

The Siva (Sri Tantonreeswarar) temple in the village was declared as a protected monument in 1971. The walls of the Siva temple carry important inscriptions. The Thiruvadhirai festival of Sri Tantonreeswaraswamy temple and the annual festival at Sri Mariamman temple attract a large number of devotees.

A cotton textile mill was established here recently. Members of the asari community in the village are mostly engaged in blacksmithy and carpentry, while pathars work as goldsmiths. This is one of the fast developing villages in the region.

Nettappakkam
( ,, )

A 210.52 Ha.
P. 1,251 (1971)

Situated at a distance of about 29.5 km. south-east of Pondicherry, it serves as the headquarters of Nettappakkam Commune Panchayat. Villupuram is the nearest town from here. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Mettutheruvu, Pudupattu and Sembadapet.

Inscriptions at Thirumanikkuzhi, Tirukkanji, Thiruvendipuram, Thirthanagari and Tirubhuvanai refer to this village as Nettaipakkam. We are certain of its existence since the days of Rajadhiraja-I. During the days of Kulothunga-I it was known as Poopalasundaranallur, named after one Poopalasundaram, otherwise known as Cholakkonar. The fact that Boopalasundaram was a great warrior is attested by Vikrama Cholan Ula (lines 143-146) which describes him as the conqueror of the Gangas, Marathas, Kalingas, Kongars and Kudakas. He was again responsible for carrying out repairs in the lake near Tirubhuvanai.36

Here is an ancient Siva temple, often ascribed to the IV or V century A.D. which is unlikely. Although it is not known when and by whom this temple was built, according to a legend Saint Agasthiar is said to have performed poojas here. Ten songs (pathigams) sung by a devotee in praise of this temple are available. The 10-day surasamharam festival celebrated in Sri Ramalingeswarar temple during October-November is the most important of all festivals celebrated in this village. 37 Sri Venkatesa Perumal temple is another important place of worship in the village. Agriculture and weaving are the two main occupations of the people in this village. Lands are mostly irrigated by tanks and wells. This is one of the highly developed villages in the Territory. Local people prefer Villupuram for Pondicherry to purchase their requirements.

The village attained fame in 1953 when a number of leading politicians left Pondicherry and formed a Liberation Government here to fight for the freedom of French Indian establishments.

Niravi C. Niravi (Neravy) A. 373.92 Ha. P. 3,778 (1971)

This village, situated at a distance of 5.3 km. from Karaikal town, is the headquarters of Niravi Commune Panchayat.

The village is noted for its temple of Sri Jambunathaswamy claimed to be about 300 years old. The thiruvathirai (December-January) and thirukkarthikai festivals (November-December) are celebrated in this temple. Several hundred people take part in the thiruvathirai festival. A fair is held on the occasion when articles of worship are kept on sale. Vaikunta Ekadesi is celebrated during December-January in the Kariamanickaperumal temple. This village is believed to be the birth place of the famous Adhimadura kavi who adorned the court of Thirumalairayan, the king who ruled from Tirumalarajan-pattinam. It was the pride of this poet which was subdued by poet Kalamegham. The village assumed some importance after the Oil and Natural Gas Commission carried out test drills to locate possible deposits of petroleum here.

Members of the Muslim community are engaged in mat weaving, Vanniar in basket-making and Asari in blacksmithy and carpentry.

 Odiyambattu
 C. Villiyanur

 (Odiampet)
 A. 234.01

 P. 997 (1971)

This is a revenue village situated at a distance of 8.5 km. from Pondicherry with jurisdiction extending to Arumattapuram, Karaiyamputtur, Manaveli, Periapet, Tattanchavadi and Valluvanpet. The village is referred to as Udayampattu in Villaipuranam (stanza 125) although Anandarangapillai refers to it as Odiampattu.38 It is more likely that the village may have derived its name from 'Odiam' tree which is very common here. It is clear that the suffix pattu has changed into 'pet'. The village is otherwise famous for its Kasi Viswanathar temple, where the 10-day brahmothsavam during February-March is marked by great festivity. A fair is also held at the place. An estimated crowd of 60,000 attends the celebrations.

Oduturai	Mel Oduturai	Kil Oduturai
(Oduthurai)	C. Niravi	C. Niravi
	A. 208.39 Ha.	A. 96.40 Ha.
	P. 794 (1971)	P. 1,077 (1971)

This is one of the twin villages in Karaikal region, one known as Kil Oduturai and the other as Mel Oduturai, together forming a revenue village.

Villagers are mostly engaged in agricultural activities. Both wet and dry crops are grown here. Lands in the area are irrigated by the Oduthurayan channel. The annual festival celebrated in Sri Kaliamman temple and the naming festival of Child Jesus in St. Antony's Church are of some importance.

## Ozhukarai:

Based on the criteria adopted for the 1971 census, several of the villages which formed part of the Ozhukarai Commune were grouped under the Ozhukarai urban area for the first time to form part of the Pondicherry Urban Agglomeration. With a total population of 26,080 the Ozhukarai urban area covers the old settlements of Delasupet, Ellupillaichavadi, Karuvadikkuppam, Laspettai, Muthulingapet, Navalkulam, Pillaichavadi (Kuppampet), Pakkamudiyanpet, Pedduchettipettai, Puduppettai, Pudusaram,\* Saint Paulpet, Samipillaithottam, Sanarapet, Tattanchavadi\* and the new colonies of Bharathi Nagar, Dhanwantarinagar, Gandhinagar, Jeeva Colony, Sankar Nagar, Tagore Nagar and Vivekananda Nagar. The urban complex does not include Ozhukarai proper.

Delaspet should more appropriately be called Delarchepet. Karuvadi-kuppam is referred to also as Karukudikuppam by Anandarangapillai in his Diary. 39 Although this settlement is more than two centuries old, it still remains a backward area with few public amenities. Laspettai which lies at a distance of about 4.2 km. from Pondicherry, is one of the many pettais which sprang up around Pondicherry after the arrival of the French. This settlement is understood to have been named after Captain Law, an Irishman who was in the service of the French between 1748 and 1755. The locality rose

<sup>\*</sup> There are two different places known under the same name of Saram and Tattanchavadi. The other Saram is in Mudaliyarpettai Commune and Tattanchavadi in Villiyanur Commune.

to prominence after merger, with the location of Tagore Arts College, Motilal Nehru Polytechnic, the Junior Technical School, St. Joseph de Cluny High School and also the government servants housing colony. It has also developed into a market place.

Pakkamudiyanpet might have developed around 1675 as according to S.P. Sen, "at the time of his departure from the Coromandel coast, de la Haye had given to (François) Martin, money for the subsistence of four Indian captains for their gallant and loyal service at St. Thome. In order to utilise this money to the best advantage, Martin farmed a village named Pacamodiampet from Sher Khan within half-an-hour's reach from Pondicherry."40 Anandarangapillai refers to the place as Pakkamudayanpattu.41 The temples of Mariamman and Ganapathi are the two landmarks in the area.

Settlements adjacent to large towns are commonly known as Saram in the Tamil country. It is possible that the village Saram must have acquired the name because of its proximity to Pondicherry town. That the village is more than two centuries old is certain as Anandarangapillai himself refers to it in his Diary.42 It lies only 1.5 km, west of Pondicherry on the road to Tindivanam. Pudusaram forms part of Saram which lies divided into Pazhayasaram and Pudusaram. Pudusaram area is of later growth. While Pazhayasaram is designated as rural for purposes of census, Pudusaram forms part of the Ozhukarai urban complex. Pudusaram takes pride in the fact that Mahavidwan Periasamypillai, a Tamil scholar and the author of Puthuvaikkalambagam, was born in this village.

Tattanchavadi rose to prominence with the establishment of the Industrial Estate in 1963. The three-day Annual festival celebrated in the Sri Ayyanar temple here attracts hundreds of devotees.

The Dhanwantarinagar area was until very recently known as Gorimedu and less frequently as Red Hills because of its altitude and the ferruginous soil. The area rises to a height of about 14 metres above sea-level rendering the climate less humid and more salubrious. The establishment of the T.B. Sanatorium, the JIPMER Hospital together with its residential complex, the Police Housing Colony, the Public Health Laboratory, the Government Tourist Home and the adjacent Indira Nagar have all added to the importance of the place. A few churches and temples, lodges, banks, hotels and a police station

have come up one by one to serve the needs of the new cosmopolitan community. Apart from the Central School, one or two private educational institutions have also sprung up in the area. A new shopping centre was on the anvil.

Muthulingampet must have sprung up as a settlement of mercenary soldiers. The Mariamman temple in the area is the centre of worship for Hindus. Navalkulam is a small backward settlement with very few public amenities. Peduchettipettai situated at a distance of 4.83 km. north-west of Pondicherry must have been named after Pedduchetti, who was one of the caste leaders in Pondicherry during the time of Anandarangapillai.

Pillaichavadi (Kuppampet) is relatively a more developed area. In the days of Anandarangapillai this locality was referred to as Ellappanchayady.43 It is likely that it had changed into Ellupillaichavadi subsequently.

Saint Paulpet, Samipillaithottam and Sanarapet are small settlements with no particular importance. Saint Paulpet is predominantly a settlement of Handloom weaving is the main occupation of the people Christian converts. in Pedduchettipettai and Pakkamudiyanpet. The people in Pillaichavadi are engaged in fishing.

Ulavarkarai

Ozhukarai (Rural)

C. Ozhukarai

सन्यमेन जयने A. 55.00 Ha. P. 4,232 (1971)

Situated at a distance of 6.5 km. west of Pondicherry, this village is the headquarters of the Commune Panchayat bearing the same name. It is nowadays wrongly referred to as Ulavarkarai. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Arumattapuram, Dharmapuri, Mulakkulam, Muttupillaipalaiyam and Pichchiviranpet.

This is a place with a millennial history behind. Inscriptions in the temples at Tiruvakkarai, Tiruvadigai, Thiruvendipuram, Thiruppalappandal, Thiruvamathur, Thiruvarambur, Ozhinthiapattu (Thiru Arasili), Madagadippattu, Marakkanam, Villiyanur and Pondicherry throw some light on this village and its antiquity. The Thiruvamathur inscription ascribed to the period of Rajaraja-I (1013 A.D.) refers to this place as Ozhukkai Vadakarai. It means a place on the northern side of a waterflow.

There are three inscriptions of Rajanarayana Sambuvarayan (1339–1363 A.D.) in the Villiyanur temple which refer to this place as Kulothungacholanallur. That this place was the seat of powerful and influential political chieftains during the Chola days is also supported by several inscriptions.

Later inscriptions refer to this place as Ozhukarai. It may therefore be assumed that Ozhukkai-Vadakarai must have come to be known as Ozhukarai in course of time.

The French adventurer La Farelle who was in Pondicherry between 1725 and 1735 refers to a temple situated at a distance of 1½ 'lieues' (about 6 km.) from Pondicherry. He has left us a description of a spectacular procession from the Siva temple in Pondicherry (Kizha Kovil) to the principal temple (Mel kovil) at Ozhukarai. As many as twenty to thirty thousand people participated in the procession. There are no traces today of the Ozhukarai Melkovil referred to by de la Farelle. According to Jouveau Dubreuil, the town of Ozhukarai once upon a time extended up to the present day Pondicherry which was only its suburb. The temples of Sri Mariamman, Sri Ellayamman and Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar are important places of worship for Hindus at present.

The lands here are very fertile and both wet and dry crops are grown here. Usteri serves as flow irrigation and wells are used for lift irrigation Important crops raised in this village are paddy, ground-nut, plaintain and sugar-cane. This village has also been identified as a market place.

C. T.R. Pattinam

A. 16.8 Ha.

P. 208 (1971)

Forming part of the T.R. Pattinam Commune, it is a very small village situated at a distance of 8.5 km. from Karaikal. It forms part of the Melaiyur revenue village. Its importance lies in the fact that it is the only enclave which lies detached from Karaikal region, surrounded on all sides by Tamil Nadu territory.

(Padudarkollai)

Pandacholanallur (Pandasozhanur) C. NettappakkamA. 214.36 Ha.

P. 1,608 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 26.5 km. south-west of Pondicherry. According to inscriptions in the Malligarjuneswarar temple here, the village must have been known as Thirumudavanpalli during the days of Kulothunga-I (XI century), named after Thirumudavan, probably a chieftain in whose honour the palli was built. The name of this palli may have been ascribed to the village in due course. Since XII century the village is said to have been called Pandithacholanallur, after Rajaraja-II who was otherwise known as Rajapandithan, erudite as he was both in Tamil and Sanskrit.44 The name Pandithacholanallur may have changed into Pandasozhanur.

The temples of Sri Mallikarjunaswamy and Sri Muthumariamman are the two important centres of worship in the village. The 12-day brahmothsavam celebrated every year during July-September in Sri Muthumariamman temple is an important festival in this village.

Lands are irrigated by both flow and lift irrigation. Paddy, sugar-cane, ground-nut, ragi and cumbu are some of the important crops grown in this village. Nellikkuppam is the nearest town from this village which is linked by a bus route.

The first set of 150 low cost houses for harijans was built in this village recently.

 Pillaiyarkuppam
 C. Villiyanur

 ( ,, )
 A. 260.54 Ha.

 P. 1,362 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 17.00 km. from Pondicherry on the bank of Sankaraparani river. This is not to be confused with the Pillaiyarkuppam in Bahur Commune Panchayat although both the villages have been identified as pre-historic/archaeological site. The Pillaiyarkuppam in Villiyanur Commune is well known for its temples and festivals. The 18-day annual festival held during April–May in Sri Koothandavar temple is the most famous. Devotees throng in thousands to witness the celebrations to which the festival fair adds colour and gaiety.

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Pillaiyarkuppam C. Bahur A. 45.26 Ha. P. 811 (1971)
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Situated at a distance of 17.25 km. (via Cuddalore road) from Pondicherry, this is one of the places identified as a pre-historic and archaeological site by Prof. J. Dubreuil. As a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Kandanpet Narambai and Valluvarpet.

Paddy is the principal wet crop grown here, while casuarina, ragi and tapioca are some of the dry crops. Tanks and wells are the main sources of irrigation. Coir industry provides part-time work to some of the villagers. The artisans mostly working with their hands use coconut fibre to make coir, ropes, etc. which find a good market both in villages and towns.

Ponbetti	Mel Po	onhetti	Kil	Ponbetti
(Ponbethy)	C. Ne	dungadu	C.	Nedungadu
	<b>A</b> . 67.	.07 Ha.	Α.	93.30 Ha.
	P. 45	0	Р.	277

Ponbetti is a twin village, viz. Mel-Ponbetti and Kil Ponbetti both lying close to Nattar. The name Ponbetti is said to be the corruption of Ponbattri. It has also been suggested that Ponpattrikavalan Buddhamitran, the author of Veerachozhiam is a native of this village.45 This name indicates that he must have been a Buddhist by religion. Interestingly even the old Siva temple in the village is built in the shape of a Buddha vihara.

## Pondicherry:

'The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea' written in the I century A.D. and the Geography of Ptolemy (II century) mention 'Poduke' as a port town on the Coromandel Coast.46 The identification of a Roman trading centre in the immediate vicinity of Pondicherry adds weight to the equation of Poduke with Pondicherry. Although this equation has been suggested by more than one writer, the equation of Poduke with 'Puduvai', the name by which the town was known in the days of Kambar and Ottakoothar, seems to be more probable. The ruins of this port town were identified at Arikamedu near Kakkayantoppu on the southern banks of river Ariyankuppam. The general indications given for 'Poduke' by the Periplus and Ptolemy are inferred

to be consistent with the position of Arikamedu. The findings of Arikamedu have therefore confirmed that the site surrounding Pondicherry must have been in occupation from the first century B.C. or the beginning of the first century A.D.47

According to one tradition, the town was once upon a time an abode of scholars well versed in the vedas and hence came to be known as Vedapuri. The inscriptions of the demolished Vedapureeswarar temple suggest that the town must have been known as Vedapuri, the reigning deity of the town being the 'Iswarar' of Vedapuri. The numerous Chola coins of the eleventh and adjacent centuries (A.D.) found in the area go to indicate that the town must have continued to flourish even during the Chola period. Interestingly, during the days of Ottakoothar and Kambar in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, Puducheri is said to have been known in its shortened form as 'Puthuvai'. This town, according to some scholars, belonged to Thiruvennainallur Chadayappa Mudaliar, the benefactor of Kamban the great.48 'Puthuvai, must have then formed part of the country called Tirumunaippadi in Nadunadu, its capital being Tiruvennainallur.

Early in the sixteenth century, the Portuguese had a factory here which they must have established after Nagappatinam (in 1521) and before San Thome (in 1524) as evident from 'Da Asia', a book of Geography published by J. Barros in the year 1553.49 A map of Pierre Berthelot (1635) lists 'Polesere' as a Danish trading port on the Coromandel Coast indicating that the Danish contact which began in 1616 continued in spite of the Dutch having been allowed into the town.50 In 1639, Francis Day, an English explorer from Madras visited 'Pullicherri' twice and stayed in the Danish lodge.51 In 1648, the Council of Madras called the town 'Pullicherry'. Hobson-Jobson cites an English reference to the place in 1680 under the spelling 'Puddicherry'.

The Hindus are understood to have called the town 'Puthuvai' or 'Puthucceri' while Musalmans called it 'Pulcheri'.52 As if to confirm this, Bhimsen in his memoires (1694–95) entitled 'Tarikh-i-Dilkasha', writes that they 'looked at Phulcery port from outside. It is a strong fort of the French and the Dutch live here. They have many guns artillery material in fine weapons."53

The Portuguese 'Puducheira' became the Danish 'Polesere' and the Dutch Pollochire', but it was the French merchants of St. Malo who seem to have mixed up the 'u' for 'n' and transformed 'Poudicheri' into 'Pondicheri'.

Pondicherry was built neatly and compactly as an ordered whole and in pursuance of a definite plan. 54 As it exists to-day, it is a blend of the Occident and the Orient and a model of Medieval European town planning. It is oval shaped with parallel streets cutting each other at right angles and an esplanade about three km. in length skirting the town. A visitor to the town cannot but feel that he is seeing a little piece of France set down in India.

The XVIII century Palais du Gouverneur, now christened Raj Nivas, the old Tribunal now housing the Legislative Assembly, the Cercle de Pondichery, the General Hospital, the Maternity Hospital, the Ashram Dining Hall and the United Commercial Bank are so lined up on three sides to form the Place du Gouvernement with a monument as the point of attraction rising at the centre of a well laid garden. Some exquisitely carved monolithic pillars adorn the Place. These pillars, ascribed to the XVII century, were brought from Gingee to Pondicherry after the capture of its fort in 1751. As the pillars were found lying scattered in a state of neglect since 1761, they were ordered to be buried in 1836. They were then dug out and erected at different points to add to the beauty of Place de Napoleon III which was inaugurated in 1866\*. The Place was subsequently renamed Place de République. The Hotel de Ville (Town Hall), the War Memorial, the 4.25 metre tall Gandhi statue facing the sprawling Gandhi maidan, the 27-metre tall lighthouse, the Sea-View Restaurant and the Pondicherry Distillery are notable points of attraction along the 1500—metre long promenade (Cours Chabrol) edging the coast. The New Pier and the beach opposite to it are popular resorts. The railway-station, the bus-stand, the Kamban Kalai Arangam, the Botanical Garden, and the Jawahar Bal Bhavan are the other important landmarks of the town.

The Institut Français and the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient are edifices of learning and research where studies are carried out in Indology, Archaeology, Lexicography, Palynology, Pedology and Cartography.

The statue of Jeanne d'Arc opposite to l'Eglise de Notre Dame des Anges, that of the goddess of travel in front of the railway-station, that of Selvaraju Chettiar in a private park on the beach road, the statues of Bharathidasan and Annadurai are grateful mementos to a meaningful past. The roads and streets named after historic personages of Pondicherry recall to mind fading memories of yester years.

<sup>\*</sup> The granite pillars inside the Grand Bazaar were also from Gingee.

The three figures in one of the pillars are said to be that of Muthukrishnappa Naik and his two wives.

Rue Jawaharlal Nehru and rue Mahatma Gandhi are the fashionable shopping quarters of Pondicherry. The Grand Bazar, the Petit Bazar, the Bazar Saint Laurent serve as market centres of the town. Muttiyalupettai is also a market centre of repute that serves the locality.

There are very few streets in the town not sanctified by the precincts of a temple, a church or a mosque. There are in fact more than 32 temples besides several churches and mosques in the town. Of these, the Manakula Vinayagar temple (rue d'Orléans), Muthumariamman temple (Muthumariamman koil Street,) Drowpathiamman temple (close to West Boulevard), Kamatchiamman temple (rue Bharathi), Varadarajaperumal temple and Sri Vedapureeswarar temple (rue Mahatma Gandhi) are very famous. Some festival or other is celebrated all through the year in these temples spreading a festive mood all around. The celebrations are marked by colourful processions, musical performances, upanyasams and the display of fire-works.

Masi magam is celebrated on the seashore near Kurichchikuppam with a great deal of fanfare, probably since the beginning of this century. Deities from as many as thirty-eight temples as far as Mailam (32.20 km.) Deevanur (54.54 km.) and Gingee (69.23 km.) participate in the celebration. The pious and well-to-do people of Pondicherry encouraged the celebration by munificent donations to meet the expenses for bringing the deities and for making other arrangements. On masi magam day the utsavamoorthies or the festival images are brought in procession to Pondicherry and from there taken around town in a clock-wise direction to the accompaniment music. On arrival, the Saivite and Vaishnavite nadhaswaram arranged near the seashore. The soolam (trident) of Saivite deities and the chakram of Vaishnavite deities are removed and dipped with the usual ceremonies in the sea and then the images are installed in a row in the nearby temporary pandals. The idols are arranged according to convention, in a determined order from north to south, all of them facing east. A large number of devotees take bath in the sea after performing a sankalpam before bath assisted by priests who assemble there for the purpose. Three of the thirtyeight deities, viz. of Mailam, Gingce and Deevanur stay on for two or three more days in the mandapam of Mailam devasthanam situated in Mission Street, the Vedapureeswarar Varadaraja Perumal Vidyalayam or Calvé Rajagopalasami Bungalow in West Boulevard respectively. Sri Subramaniar temple of Mailam and Sri Poyyada Vinayagar temple of Deevanur are given an annual grant of Rs. 225 each to enable their participation in the masi magam festival.

The ten-day annual festival in Muthumariamman temple is celebrated in the Tamil month of thai (January - February). Here too, the 10 predominant communities of the town, viz. Vannar, Senaithalaivar, Naidu, Vysia, Vellalas, Vanniar, Sengunthar, Vaniar, Ariya Vysias and Brahmins conduct the festival respectively on each day according to a longstanding agreement. The procession on each night is marked by music and display of fire-works. The 10-day annual Brahmothsavam of Manakula Vinayakar Temple is celebrated since 1957. According to a common agreement, each day's expenditure is met by a particular community in the town.55 A 22-day festival is celebrated in Drowpathiamman temple in the month of adi (July-August). This festival, associated with the fire-walking ceremony, is very famous and attracts a large crowd. On the eighteenth day the Goddess is taken to Vellavari, a place two kilometres north of Pondicherry town where the famous fire-walking ceremony takes place. Those who vow to take part in the ordeal observe 40 days fast and wear saffron coloured clothes and after a purificatory bath, walk through the fire to the astonishment of the spectators.56

The annual kinni radhothsavam of Kamatchiamman temple is celebrated in the Tamil month of chittirai (April-May). The word kinni means a metallic hollow disc. During the festival the chariot (ratham) in which the deity is installed for the ceremonial procession is decorated with numerous such well polished discs which glitter beautifully in moonlight. The festival, marked by processions of the Goddess in different vahanas to the accompaniment of nadhaswaram music and display of fire-works, is so named because of this special decoration.

The Varadarajaperumal temple is a simple, modest and impressive structure. It has a prized possession of antique jewellery. Srimath Andavan has sung the glory of this shrine in his Mangala Sassanam.

Amongst the churches, the Eglise de Notre-Dame de l'Immaculée Conception in rue des Missions Etrangères, l'Eglise de Notre Dame des Anges in rue Dumas and Eglise de Sacré-Coeur de Jesus in South Boulevard are the most noteworthy, each representing a different style of architecture viz., Indo-Saracenic, Roman and Gothic. Of them l'Eglise de Notre Dame de l'Immaculée Conception was first built in 1692 and took its present shape in 1791 after its destruction in 1761. It is noted for its Saracenic features. The church of Notre Dame des Anges built between 1851 and 1855 is noteworthy for its masonry ornamentation carried out with the finest *chunam* mixed with the white of eggs which almost gives to the walls the effect of white marble. The church in Kurichchikuppam was

built in the year 1843. The Sacred Heart Church, consecrated only at the beginning of this century, stands out as a specimen of gothic splendour. The stained glass panels that adorn the doors and windows add beauty to the interior of the church.

In the eastern wing of the town, especially in rue Capucins (now rue Romain Rolland) are little mansions and cottages protected by columned portals. The Ouvriers des Soeurs de St. Joseph de Cluny, is a beautiful XVIII century structure which may probably have escaped the destruction of 1761. Several public as well as private buildings, like Ecole de la rue des Missions Etrangères (now V.O.C. High School) and Collège Calvé carry the impress of continental architecture. As a specimen of Indo-French architecture one may cite the mansion of Anandarangapillai in rue Rangapillai built sometime in 1733 and that of Kattoukara Appavu Pillai in rue Jawaharlal Nehru both of which have been declared as historical monuments.

The police band used to play at the specially built bandstand within the municipal nursery garden. Nowadays it plays Western and Indian musical compositions every Saturday at the pentagonal platform at the centre of the Gandhi maidan. The town is otherwise famous for its eating places which serve French as well as Vietnamese food. The roof garden restaurants and bars are an added attraction.

Verily as the tourist brochures proclaim, "for those in quest of a relaxed leisurely holiday while simultaneously imbibing of India's great spiritual and cultural heritage, there is no better place than Pondicherry".

This village lies at a distance of about 5 km. from Pondicherry town and about 2.5 km. from Villiyanur railway station. An inscription in the Villiyanur temple ascribed to the period of Sadasivadevarayar refers to a place called Pirayoor. The Villaipuranam which belongs to a much later period also refers to the place as Pirayoor. The word 'Piray' means the cresent and the suffix 'oor' refers to the place. It may therefore be safely assumed that the name 'Pirayoor' may have changed into 'Poraiyur'. The village has assumed some importance with the establishment of some industrial units in the vicinity. Harijans constitute more than 67 per cent. of the population of this village.

 Puttakudi
 C.
 Nedungadu

 (Puthakudy)
 A.
 181.15 Ha.

 P.
 192 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of about 7 km. from Karaikal The name of the village suggests its possible early association with Buddhism. Interestingly a granite statue of Buddha was unearthed in the village some years ago. Puthamangalam and Agaraputhakudi are the names of two other villages in the region. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Agaraputtakudi, Vadamattam and Mel Kottuchcheri. The population of the village which stood at 224 in 1961 declined to 192 by 1971, although the reason for the decline is not known.

# Ramanathapuram

C. Villiyanur

A. 325.52 Ha.

P. 1,077 (1971)

This is a revenue village which lies at a distance of about 15 km from Pondicherry. Villagers are mostly engaged in agricultural and allied activities. Ragi, cumbu, ground-nut, gingelly and cotton are the important dry crops grown in the area. Paddy and sugar-cane are the wet crops. Irrigation is carried on with the help of tanks and wells. The Primary Health Centre in the village was transferred to the control of JIPMER in 1965 for running a Rural Health Centre.

The village has been identified as a prehistoric and archaeological site by Prof. J. Dubreuil.

ReddiyarpalaiyamC. Ozhukarai(Reddiarpalayam)A. 140.00 Ha.P. 2,046 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 4.5 km. west of Pondicherry. As a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Ellupillaichavadi, Karamanikkuppam, Kavundanpalaiyam, Kondupet, Kundupalayam, Pavazhakaranchavady and Poomiampet. According to one tradition it grew up as a palayam of Reddiars who had migrated from the Telugu country after their conversion to christianity. Anandarangapillai calls it as Tambireddipalayam, which must have later changed into Reddiyarpalaiyam.57

There are three churches and a convent in this village. One of the three churches is more than 200 years old. This is evident from an event recorded in the Diary of Anandarangapillai under the date of 30 November 1745. According to this report, the Christian dubash Kanakaraya Mudaliar installed some images in the church built by him and celebrated the occasion. He invited Brahmins, Vellalars, Komuttis, Chetties, Goldsmiths, Weavers, Oilmongers and people of other castes besides Europeans and Christians and entertained them to a feast at Ozhukarai. All the arrangements were made in strict conformity with the religious scruples of each caste and the people who attended it received every attention.58 The large number of rentiers and retired officials in the village has earned for it the name of Pensioners' Paradise. Some follow agricultural avocations. Quite a few of them are engaged in industrial and manufacturing ventures. This is one of the fast developing villages in the region with its population having increased from 1,181 in 1961 to 2,046 by 1971.

Sattamangalam	Mel Sattamangalam	Kil	Sattamangalam
(Kizhasathamangalam)	C. Villiyanur	C.	Villiyanur
Melasathamangalam)	A. 48.96 Ha,	A.	157.61 Ha.
_	P. 282 (1971)	P.	1,023 (1971)
	सन्यमेन जयने		

This is one of the twin villages in Pondicherry region. They are known as Kil Sattamangalam and Mel Sattamangalam and lie separated by a distance of a few hundred metres. Mel Sattamangalam lies at a distance of 16.25 km. and Kil Sattamangalam at a distance of 15.25 km. from Pondicherry. These two villages together constitute a revenue village. The word 'Sathan' is associated and it is likely that the villages, lying not far from with Buddhism. the Ariyankuppam has had some links with Buddhism in early centuries of this era. An inscription in Tirubuvanai temple ascribed to the period of Rajadhiraja-I (1051 A.D.) refers to the deity of the village temple as Sathamangala Mahadevar. It is possible that by the XI century the influence of Buddhism had declined and Saivism had established itself. This village has also been identified as a prehistoric/archaeological site.

Sedarappattu (Sedarapet)

C. Villiyanur

A. 461.36 Ha.

P. 1,757 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 16 km. from Pondicherry. Anandarangapillai also calls it Setharapattu.59 In 1969 the village was chosen for development as a model village to commemorate the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. There are eight temples in this village. The festival celebrated in Sri Sengazhaniamman temple is of some importance.

Cultivators and agricultural labourers constitute the major working force in this village. Important crops grown include paddy, sugar-cane, cumbu, gingelly, tapioca and casuarina. Lands are irrigated both by tanks and wells.

Seliyamedu (Seliamedu) C. Bahur

A. 256.93 Ha.

P. 1,423 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 18.5 km. from Pondicherry. The population having increased from 827 in 1961 to 1,423 in 1971 it emerges as one of the fast growing villages in the region. There are in all eight temples here. The annual festivals celebrated in the temples of Sri Muthalamman, Sri Mariamman and Selva Vinayagar attract a large number of devotees. The village is otherwise famous as the birth place of Poet Rangasami Naidu, popularly known as Vanidasan.

Paddy, sugar-cane, banana, ragi and ground-nut are the important crops grown in this village. Irrigation is carried on with the help of tanks and wells. The village has also been identified as a market place.

As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Adingapet, Kudiyiruppupalayam, Pudunagaram and Sarcasimedupet.

Sellippattu (Sellipet)

C. MannadipattuA. 273.93 Ha.

P. 1,344 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of about 17 km. from Pondicherry.

The temples of Sri Drowpathiamman, Sri Renukai Mariamman and Sri Subramaniar are the three important places of worship in the village. A large number of devotees gather at the 13-day annual festival celebrated in the Renukai Mariamman temple in April.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers. Both wet and dry crops are raised in this village. Irrigation is carried out mainly by bore wells energised by electric-motors. There are also a couple of establishments engaged in blacksmithy and goldsmithy.

 Serumavilangai
 C. Tirunallar

 ( ,, )
 A. 184.91 Ha.

 P. 655 (1971)

Situated at a distance of 9.65 km. from Karaikal, this village forms part of the Sorakkudi revenue village. Sri Kailasanathar temple is the most important landmark here. The masi magam festival celebrated in Sri Kanniamman temple is of local interest. There is a Harijan Boys' Hostel in the village.

Settur C. Tirunallar (Agarasethur)\* A. 202.79 Ha. (Pandaravadai Sethur) P. 942 (1971)

This is a twin village comprising Agara Settur and Pandaravadai Settur. They lie at a distance of about 10.9 km. and 11.39 km. respectively from Karaikal on the Karaikal—Peralam road passing through Tirunallar. They together form a revenue village with jurisdiction extending to Kumarakudi, Sathankudy and Tenbidagai. Sri Prathapasimmeswarar temple which may be ascribed to the XIII or XIV century is a notable landmark of Agara Settur village. There are Chola inscriptions in Sri Prathapasimmeswarar temple which is now a protected monument under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India.

Paddy is the wet crop and pulses, gingelly and casuarina are the main dry crops raised in this village. Nular provides irrigation for lands in this village.

<sup>\*</sup> Several villages in Karaikal region carry the prefix 'Agara' to its name, like Agara Kasakkudi, Agara Kurumbagaram, Agara Mankudi, Agara Neivachcheri, Agara Puttakudi.

Sombattu (Sompet)

C. Mannadipattu A. 114.66 Ha.

P. 667 (1971)

This is a small village situated at a distance of 24.50 km. from Pondicherry (via Sorappattu) and forms part of the Mannadipattu revenue village. It is otherwise known for the festivals celebrated in Sri Renugaparanjothiamman temple. Among the many festivals celebrated here, the 10-day annual festival held during July-August attracts several hundred devotees. The occasion is also marked by a fair where articles of worship, plantains, coconuts, toys and edibles are traded.

Sorakkudi

C. Tirunallar

(Sorakudy)

A. 248.51 Ha.

P. 1,113 (1971)

It is situated at a distance of 7.8 km. from Karaikal. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Serumavilangai as well. Sri Somanathaswamy temple and Sri Lakshminarayanaperumal temple are two important landmarks of the village. The discovery of two bronze idols of antique value i.e. Sri Thiripurantaka of about 60 cm. height and Thiripurasundari of about 45 cm. height from Periathope near this village on 30 May 1971 seem to confirm its antiquity. The idols are now in the Pondicherry Museum.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the village. Paddy is the chief crop grown here. Nular is the main source of irrigation. Blacksmithy and carpentry are the crafts practised in the village.

One peculiar feature is that there has been a decline in the population of this village, i.e. from 1,191 in 1961 to 1,113 in 1971 probably due to emigration of agricultural workers and the educated to urban areas.

Soriyankuppam

C. Bahur

(Soriankuppam)

A. 210.24 Ha.

P. 1,613 (1971)

Situated at a distance of 23.5 km. from Pondicherry, this village forms part of the Kuruvinattam revenue village. It is otherwise well known for its Sri Sedal Sengazhuneeramman temple. The 10-day Sedal festival celebrated during May-June attracts several thousand people from all surrounding villages.

The Tiruppapuliyur railway station is only at a distance of five km, from here.

Suramangalam

(Sooramangalam)

C. Nettappakkam

A. 121.54 Ha.

P. 1,468 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 26.75 km. from Pondicherry (via Kariyamanikkam) and forms part of Kariyamanikkam revenue village.

According to an inscription ascribed to the tenth regnal year of Sadayavarman Sundara Pandya-II (A.D. 1286) found in the Theivanayagaperumal temple at Thiruvendipuram, lands were offered to a temple in the name of 27 high officials. One of the officials who had signed it was known as Soorapakkizhavan. This may be the shortened form of Soorapakkam kizhavan. It has been suggested that Soorapakkam could be the present village of Suramangalam.60 If this is correct, the village must be at least seven centuries old.

It has also been identified as a potential market place.

Suttukanni

(Suthukeny)

C. Mannadipattu

A. 394.82 Ha.

P. 1,096 (1971)

This village which lies at a distance of 23 km. from Pondicherry rose to prominence in 1950 with the discovery of megalithic burial sites by J.M. and G. Casal, the French archaeologists.61 The findings of Casal have shown that it is a prehistoric site of great importance. This is now one of the fast developing villages in the Territory as its population has more than doubled in a decade i.e. from 884 in 1961 to 1,906 in 1971. Agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers. Paddy is the wet crop while ragi, cumbu and ground-nut are the dry crops grown in this village. Irrigation is carried out both by tanks and wells.

सन्यापन जयस

The annual festival celebrated in Sri Drowpathiamman temple attracts a large number of devotees. The Inspection Bungalow in this village situated close to the banks of Gingee river near the anicut formerly served as a popular week-end resort.

Talatteruvu (Thalatheru) C. KaraikalA. 339. 53 Ha.P. 1,539 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 4.6 km. north of Karaikal town. As a revenue village, its jurisdiction extends to Kilinjimedu also. Almost 45 per cent. of the population in this village belong to the scheduled castes and about 70 per cent. of the working force are engaged in agriculture. Both wet and dry crops are grown here. Paddy is the main wet crop and pulses are the dry crops raised in this area where canal irrigation is available.

Sri Sivaloganathaswamy temple is the centre of worship where the celebration of the annual festival and masi magam evokes some popular interest.

Tavalakuppam

(Thavalakuppam)

C. Ariyankuppam

A. 80.10 Ha.

P. 805 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 9.5 km. from Pondicherry. Anandarangapillai refers to the place as Tavalakuppam and tells us that there was a choultry here.62 It has been suggested that the village may have derived its name from the word 'Thavalam' standing for white lily, for which the area is even now famous. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Andipalaiyam, Edaiyarpalaiyam, Kasanthittu, Korkumedu and Thanampalayam. It has also been identified as a market centre.

Tennagudi (Thennankudy) C. Tirunallar A. 195.15 Ha.

P. 576

It is situated at a distance of 6.5 km. west of Karaikal on the Peralam road. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Mathur, Kottapady and Muppattankudi. This is yet another village in Tirunallar Commune where the population had declined from 666 in 1961 to 576 in 1971 probably due to emigration of farm labour.

Almost three-fourths of the villagers are engaged in agriculture. Both wet and dry crops are grown here. Irrigational facilities are provided by canals emanating from Nular. Some villagers are engaged in the handicraft of pottery-making.

(Thimmanaikkenpalayam)

C. Ariyankuppam A. 380.21 Ha.

P. 1,710 (1971)

The village lies south-west of Pondicherry town at a distance of 14.5 km. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Theduvanatham. A XVI century Telugu inscription in Tiruvandarkovil, ascribed to the period of Narasingaraya, refers to one Thimma Nayakan, an agent of Annamarasa who was a minister of Saluva Narasingarayan. It is possible that this village derives its name from this Thimma Nayakan. Anandarangapillai however refers to the place both Thimmappanaikkanpalayam and Thimmiappanayakenpalayam.63 majority of the population belongs to the scheduled castes.

The Thimmanayakenpalayam-Abhisokapakkam lake which lies north of the village is the principal source of irrigation. It is fed by the surplus waters of Bahur lake which lies south-west at a distance of 5.63 km. The Malattar flows on the western side of the village.

The temples of Sri Muthumariamman and Sri Vinayagar are the two important places of worship. The 10-day annual festival celebrated in Sri Muthumariamman temple sometime during July-August attracts hundreds of devotees. The festival is marked by a fair where toys, fruits, etc. are brought in for sale.

Tiruk kanur (Thirukkanur) C. Mannadipattu A. 195.32 Ha. P. 1.707 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 16 km, from Pondicherry. It is famous for the 9-day annual festival held at Sri Muthumariamman temple during July-August. Several hundred people gather to celebrate the occasion which is also marked by a festival fair.

It has also been identified as a Rural Growth Centre and a market centre.

Tirumalarajanpattinam (Thirumalarayanpattinam) C. T.R. Pattinam A. 121.08 Ha.

P. 7,461 (1971)

Situated at a distance of 5.4 km. from Karaikal, this village is the head quarters of Tirumalarajanpattinam Commune Panchayat. This forms part of the Melayur revenue village. It lies south of Karaikal along the Nagappattinam

main road. The nearest railway station is Karaikal. The village is otherwise called T.R. Pattinam for the sake of brevity. Anandarangapillai to it as Thirumalairayanpatinam.64 The French called it 'Grand' Aldée'meaning a big village. Appropriately it is the largest village in the Territory at present. The village is said to have been named after Thirumalrayan who was the representative of the Vijayanagar ruler in Tamil Nadu. He is said to have built the new town of Thirumalarayanpattinam and reigned from here. Even Tirumalarajanar is said to have been dug by this ruler. His inscriptions are found at Thiruvanaikkaval, Thanjavur, Papanasam and Pattichuram. Poet Kalamegham added lustre to his fame by serving as his court poet. This position was held before by Adhimadura Kavirayer.65

According to a legend, the king is reported to have built 108 temples and an equal number of tanks or ponds in this place.66 The village is even now famous for its numerous temples and wells although their number is small. The Jadayupureeswarar temple is said to be the oldest in the village. The legend connected with the temple says that Ravana after abducting Sita passed through this village and that Jadayu, the legendary bird of the puranas fought Ravana at this place while speeding to Lanka with abducted Sita Jadayu having been killed in the encounter, not only attained moksha, but also had a darshan of Siva here. Among the festivals held in this temple masi magam is the most important and is attended by several thousand devotees. It is celebrated for three days in the month of masi (February-March). Scenes from the Ramayana are re-enacted with the help of wooden images during this festival.

The temples of Sri Abiramiamman, Sri Ragunathaperumal, Sri Venkatesa perumal, Sri Vizhi Varadarajaperumal and Sri Kamakshiamman are the other important places of worship in the village. The one-day masi magam festival celebrated every alternate year in Ragunathaperumal temple and every year in Sri Varadarajaperumal temple attracts several thousand devotees. A fair is also held on the occasion. The one-day Vijaya Dasami festival in Sri Venkatesaperumal temple and Sri Jadayupureeswarar temple held during September-October, attracts a few thousand people and in both the places it is accompanied by a fair.

This is one of the well developed villages in the Territory.

Tiruvandarkovil (Thiruvandarkoil) C. Mannadipattu A. 250.88 Ha.

P. 1,461 (1971)

This village is situated about 21 km. west of Pondicherry. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Kottapurinattam as well. There are grounds to believe that around VII century A.D. this place must have been known as Thiruvadukur as Saint Thiruganasambandar visited the place and sang a pathigam in praise of the reigning deity of the temple. Although there are no traces today of either Vadukur or the temple of Vadukanadhar sung by the Saint, a spot now known as Lingathumedu is supposed to have been the former location of this temple.

Although the inscriptions (16 in all) in the temple here pertain to the period from the X to the XVI century A.D. none of them refers to the place as Vadukur. They refer to three Shiva temples within the limits of Thirubuvanamathevi Caturvedimangalam viz, Thiruvarainakkan koil, Thirunakeswaramudayar koil and Arulagara Iswaramudayar koil. However there are traces of only one temple today viz. Thiruvarainakkan koil, which in due course came to be known as Thiruvandarkoil. This is evident from a later inscription ascribed to the period of Saluva Narasinga Maharayar. This inscription refers to the reigning deity as Thiruvandar and the temple may have been known as Tiruvandarkoil. It is possible that the name of the temple came to be applied to the village in course of time. Anandarangapillai also refers to the place as Thiruvandarkoil.67

The said temple is an important protected monument under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India. It is otherwise noted for its remarkable stone sculptures.

On the southern wall of the *karuvarai* is found the image of Dakshinamurthy, on the west that of Lingotbhavar, on the north that of Brahmadevar. On the south of the *arthamandapam* is found the image of Pitchadanar and on the north Durga, besides that of Ganeshar, Arthanari, Idaparudar, etc. At the entrance of the *arthamandapam* are found two images of dwarapalakas.68

Tirubhuvanai (Thirubuvanai) C. MannadipattuA. 325.30 Ha.P. 2,358 (1971)

This is the biggest village in the commune, and serves as the headquarters of the Mannadipattu Commune Panchayat. It lies on the Pondicherry-Villupuram road at a distance of about 23.5 km. west of Pondicherry. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Tirubhuvanaipalayam.

Ouralmedu and Lingathumedu, both in the vicinity of this village, have been identified as prehistoric and archaeological sites. Since the days of Parantaka-I this place was known as Tirubhuvanamadevi Caturvedimangalam. Inscriptions of Kopperunjinga refer to this place as Thirubhuvanamadevi. Even this abridged name was further shortened into Tirubhuvanai in later days.

There was a vidyastana in Tirubhuvanai as in Bahur. According to an inscription, there were as many as 12 teachers and 190 students in this institution. The students enjoyed scholarships in the form of paddy, the total requirement of which came to 9,525 kalams per annum. In order to meet these requirements, lands measuring 72 velis were given as grant. The yield from these lands amounted to 12,000 kalams which were used for the maintenance of the college. The lake near this village was known as Kokkizhanadi per-eri.

The village is noted for its Varadaraja Perumal temple ascribed to the Chola period. It is one of the four protected monuments in Pondicherry region. The attru thiruvizha, Garuda Sevai and Vaikunta Ekadesi are the major festivals celebrated in this temple. A statue of Aranganathar unearthed a few years ago near Tirubhuvanai was installed in a newly built mandapam.

An image of Lord Vinayaga, said to belong to the early Chola period is now found installed in the Mariamman temple. This image is said to belong to the old Siva temple of Tirubhuvanai. The bronze images of Nataraja, Sivagamasundari and Uma Maheswarar together with a conch bearing an inscription belonging to the Chola period, were found in the vicinity of this village in 1974. They are now in the Pondicherry Museum. One of the dwarapalakas now in the General Hospital is said to have been brought from this place.

This is one of the few villages in the region claiming a stalapurana. The stalapurana written in prose on palm leaves is said to remain unpublished.

Tirukkanji (Thirukanchi) C. Villiyanur A. 352.94 Ha. P. 1,166 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 13 km. from Pondicherry. The temple in Tirukkanji is dedicated to Sri Gangai Varagha Eswarar and Kamakshi, his consort. The XII century Siva temple in the village was almost swept away by the river, in spite of the efforts taken to preserve it. The *lingam* is understood to have been removed from the old sanctuary and installed in a new temple built south of the old one.69 There is said to be a stalapurana for the village.

Because of its location on the bank of Varaha River, it is called Gangai Varaha Eswarar temple. The 11-day brahmotsavam at Kanjinathar temple celebrated during February-March every year, attracts many thousands. The fair held at the same time serves as an added attraction. The Census of India 1961 puts the number of those who attend the festival at 50,000. The village has been identified as a prehistoric and archaeological site by Prof. J. Dubreuil. Agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers. Both tanks and wells are used for irrigation. Important crops grown in this area include paddy, sugar-cane, tapioca, ragi and ground-nut.

Tiruvettakudi (Thiruvettakudy)

C. KottuchcheriA. 453.81 Ha.P. 1,564 (1971)

This village, situated at a distance of 9.9 km. north of Karaikal, may be reached by taking a turn to the east on the Karaikal-Tarangambadi road north of Kottuchcheri. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Kalikuppam, Mandabathur and Mannankoil.

Sri Thirumeniazhagarswamy temple with its 45 feet tall gopuram is the most important landmark of the village. The presiding deity of the east facing temple is Lord Siva, known here as Sundareswarar and his consort Soundarya-nayagi. To the left of the prakaram is the shrine of Lord Ganesa and to the right are the shrines of Chandikeswarar, Durgai, Ayyanar, Soorya and Chandra. At the centre of the prakaram is the mahamandapam, from where one may have a view of the sanctum sanctorum of the Lord in the form of a Lingam. Behind the sanctum sanctorum may be seen the shrines of Lord Subramaniar, Punnaivana-nathar and Mahalakshmi. The glory of the presiding deities of the temple has been sung by such great Saivite Saints as Thirugnanasambandar and Thirunavukkarasar. According to a legend,

Arjuna is said to have performed his pooja here to obtain the pasupatha asthram. It could not be ascertained whether the unpublished Tiruvettakudi puranam, still in palm leaves, is the stalapurana of this village. The masi magam festival celebrated in the temple attracts thousands of devotees from far and near.

The inhabitants of this village are mostly engaged in agricultural activities. Canal irrigation is available for the lands. Paddy is the wet crop and ground-nut and pulses are the dry crops grown here. Paddy is the main item of trade in this village.

Tirunallar (Thirunallar) C. TirunallarA. 340.33 Ha.P. 2,695 (1971)

This village which is the headquarters of Tirunallar Commune Panchayat is situated at a distance of about 5 km. west of Karaikal town on the Peralam-Karaikal road. This is one of the few villages in the Territory which claim to a published stalapurana. However it is of interest to a granite statue of Buddha was discovered from a site belongnote that ing to Darbaranyeswarar temple in 1966. The place is otherswise famous because of the Darbaranyeswarar temple situated there. Although Darbaranyam is said to be the original name of this village, there is no evidence to support the claim. According to a legend the place was originally a forest of darbha grass and it is told that the Linga even now carries impressions left by the darbha weeds with which it was once found wrapped. There are a few Chola inscriptions on the northern wall of the mandapam in front of the shrine. According to another legend, the great king Nala of puranic fame got himself rid of the affliction of Saturn or Saneeswarar, after worshipping the Lord consecrated in this temple. Saint Thirugnanasambandar sang a pathigam in praise of the deity here. The moolavar of Darbaranyeswarar is said to be a Swayambhu lingam. The Lord is also known as Adhimoorthi or Nallarar. The one-piece emerald idol of the deity here is claimed to be the largest of its kind in the country, while the image of Thiagar here is believed to be the outcome of divine handiwork.

The temple has separate sanctum sanctorum for Sri Darbaranyeswarar, Thyagarajaswamy, Vinayakar, Subramanyar, Mahalakshini and Nataraja in the first prakaram and for Pranambigai and Saneeswarar in the second prakaram. The sanctum of Ambal and of Nataraja face south. In addition, granite images of Bhairavar, Surya, Durgai, Dakshinamurthi, Chandikeswarar and the 63 Saivite saints are also installed in the temple at appropriate places. There are five thirthams associated with the temple, namely Brahma-thirtham and Vani thirtham on the east and south, Anna thirtham and Agasthiar thirtham on the north and Nala thirtham on the north-west of the temple.

The Sani Peyarchi festival is celebrated on a grand scale once every two and a half years, as according to astrology, Saneeswaran moves from one sign (house) to the next in the Zodiac once in two and a half years and the day of his transit is observed as a festival in Tirunallar. This festival attracts several thousand devotees from all over the country. Sri Darbaranyeswarasamy temple runs a tourist home for the convenience of visiting pilgrims. An orphanage is also run under the auspices of the temple.

A fair is held during the festival here where all kinds of utensils are brought for sale, and the merchants of nearby places open vessel shops at least a few days prior to the festival. 70

Tondamanattam

(Thondamanatham)

C. Villiyanur

A. 457.32 Ha.

P. 1,664 (1971)

This village lies at a distance of 15 km. from Pondicherry. An inscription in Tirubhuvanai temple ascribed to the period of Vikramachola refers to a Thondaiman whose accomplishments as a warrior are referred to in several other inscriptions. It is likely that this village (natham) may have been named after this Thondaiman. It is definitely more than two centuries old as Anandarangapillai refers to the place in his Diary. 71 Both flow and lift irrigation sources are utilised for watering the fields. Important crops grown in this area are paddy, ground-nut, tapioca, sugar-cane and ragi. Some villagers operate kilns for the preparation of lime which finds a ready market in and around Pondicherry.

Tuttipattu (Tuthipet)

C. Villiyanur

A. 276.34 Ha.

P. 410 (1971)

This is a small village about 19 km. west of Pondicherry and can be reached via. Suttukanni. As 'pet' appears to be the corruption of 'pattu', 'Tuttipattu' seems to be the more correct name of the village.

There are three temples and a church in this village. Festivals celebrated in the church and temples attract a large number of devotees. Lands are irrigated both by tanks and wells. Important crops grown in this village are paddy, varagu, cumbu and cholam. This is a very backward village. There is a model farm in the village set up by 'Volontariat'—a social service organization, with a view to training farmers on modern farm techniques.

Uruvaiyar C. Villiyanur ( ,, ) A. 184.35 Ha. P. 1,535 (1971)

Uruvaiyar, located on the southern bank of Sankaraparani river (or Gingee river), lies at a distance of 12.5 km. south-west of Pondicherry town. An inscription in the Tirubhuvanai temple, ascribed to the period of Rajadhiraja-I refers to this village as Uruvaru or Uruvathur. The deity of the village temple is called Uruvathur Mahadevar.

Sri Drowpathiamman temple and Sri Sengazhuneer Mariamman temple are the two important places of worship in this village. The annual festivals celebrated in these temples, especially the 10-day festival in Drowpathiamman temple during March-April, attract a large number of devotees.

This village is famous for its stapathis who are experts in making bronze icons. The bronze images cast in an alloy of copper and brass are in good demand and Uruvaiyar is the only place in Pondicherry where this handicraft is practised. This village has also been identified as a prehistoric site.

Agricultural labourers constitute the highest percentage of the working force in this village. Tanks and wells are the main sources of irrigation. Important crops grown in this village are paddy, ragi, ground-nut and tapioca.

Usteri C. Villiyanur (Oussudu) A. 281.79 Ha. P. 213 (1971)

The importance of this village may be attributed to the lake which is known as Usteri. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Poraiyur and Sendanattam. According to an inscription in Chandramouleeswarar temple at Tiruvakkarai, assigned to the period of Kopperunjinga, is said to have built sluices and a canal to bring water to a lake And the lake seems to be none other than Usteri. In those days, the lake is understood to have been known as 'Pariyan-eri' and 'Ozhukarai-eri' 72 While the Karnatakarajakkal saritham refered to the place as Oosutheri, Anandarangapillai called it differently as Soosarettiri, Oosutteri, Pughasoodu-eri and Ushteri, 73

Situated at a distance of 11 km. west of Pondicherry, it has the reputation of a summer resort. Week-end visitors to the lake used to stay in the Inspection Bungalow at Pathukkannu. This has also been described as one of the promising picnic spots in Pondicherry. The lake site with a winding water frontage is endowed with scenic beauty adding colour and charm to the entire backdrop of the lake. A scheme for the beautification of the lake area was prepared by the Town and Country Planning Office some years ago.

Vanjiyur	Kil Vanjiyur	Mel Va <b>n</b> jiyur
(Keezhavanjoor)	C. T.R. Pattinam	C. T.R. Pattinam
(Melavanjoor)	A. 300.01 Ha.	A. 100.00 Ha.
	P. 350 (1971)	P. 283 (1971)

This village consists of two distinct settlements known as Kil Vanjiyur and Mel Vanjiyur. The two settlements together constitute a revenue village.

The Nagore railway station is at a distance of only 1.6 km. from here. The Saint of Nagore, known as Nagore Andavar is said to have performed for forty days the last meditation called Kalvath in a subterranean chamber covered by wooden planks. 74

The Rangayyasami madam is also situated in this village.

Varachchakudi	सर्यभेव जपने	C.	Kottuchcheri
(Varichikudy)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	A.	434.27 Ha.
		P.	2,192 (1971)

Situated at a distance of 7.9 km. north-east of Karaikal, this is one of the well developed villages in Karaikal region. Varachchakudi-North and Varachchakudi-South form two revenue villages. While jurisdiction of Varachchakudi-South covers Rayampalaiyam, Koozhkuditha Agraharam and Pulianthope, that of north covers Varachchakudi and Konnakavaly.

The Sri Varadarajaperumal temple which is said to be about one hundred and fifty years old is an important landmark of this village. The images of Sri Varadarajaperumal together with his consorts Sridevi and Bhoodevi are held in great veneration. Vaikunda Ekadesi and *Masi magam* are marked by festivities. Agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers. Paddy is the main wet crop and ground-nut and pulses are the dry crops raised in the village. Nandalar and Nattar are the main sources of irrigation.

Villiyanur (Villianur) C. VilliyanurA. 238.13 Ha.P. 3,217 (1971)

Villiyanur, lying to the west of Pondicherry on the Pondicherry-Villupuram main road at a distance of 9.5 km., is the headquarters of Villiyanur Commune Panchayat. Sri Gokilambal Tirukameswarar temple is and from the architectural point of view, the finest in Pondicherry. The temple campus comprises an area of 1.44 Ha. The two gopurams on the east and south, respectively of 21.35 m. and height, are lofty structures of excellent craftmanship. The southern gopuram is of eight stories placed in such an alignment that a staircase of 83 steps leads to the top, passing through all the seven stories. A little over two centuries ago this gopuram served as an observation post for the French who kept a watch over the movement of enemy soldiers across the highways leading to Pondicherry. The sculptures are specimens of high artistic skill, chiselled on granite slabs said to have been brought from Gingee hills, about 50 km. north-west of Pondicherry. The holy tank of the temple has an attractive neerazhimandapam at the centre. The moolavar in the sanctum sancturum is a Swayambu Lingam formed of earth. Hence it is annointed only with punugu oil; granite images of several other deities such as Dakshinamurthi, Vishnu, Balaganapathi are however, available, not to speak of bronze utsavars of Somaskandar, Gokilambal and many others.

This is one of the very few places which can claim a *stalapurana* known as Villaipuranam, composed by Veeraraghava kavi. It consists of 495 poems and was first published in 1940 through the initiative of U.V. Saminatha Iyer. The *purana* refers to the place as Kamisam, Vilvapuri and Vilvamanagaram.

The stalapurana refers to a Saiva kalvi madam on the Odiyambattu road and Egambara Swami madam in Sannadi veethi. Besides these, there were mutts for other communities as well.

The 10-day annual festival (brahmothsavam) of this temple held in May-June attracts many hundreds of devotees. The commencement of this festival is so timed that the ninth day falls on the full-moon day when the ruling star is Vaisakam. The temple car rising to a height of 15.25 m. is copiously decorated and pulled out of its usual position. The launching of the car itself used to be a ceremonious affair with the Governor

pulling the rope attached to the car along with the other devotees. This practice is followed even now. Since the French days, the temple has also been the proud recipient of a grant from the government for holding the festival. The fair held on the occasion adds colour to the festivity.

The church of Notre Dame de Lourdes, consecrated in the year 1877, is another important landmark in the village. 75 One special feature of this church is that there is a tank in front where a theppa thiruvizha is held.

The village is otherwise famous for its batik sarees and lungis made by its local craftsmen who have survived the onslaught of three centuries.

The location of a Block Development Office in the village has created better opportunities for its development. This is now a well developed village and has been identified as a Rural Growth Centre and a market centre.

AND COLOR

Virampattinam	Periya Virampattinam	Chinna Virampattinam
(Sinnavirampattinam)	C. Ariyankuppam	C. Ariyankuppam
(Periavirampattinam)	A. 105. 46 Ha.	A. 65.51 Ha.
	P. 2,688 (1971)	P. 346 (1971)

This is an easily accessible coastal village lying south of Pondicherry at a distance of about 8.25 km. 76 Chinna Virampattinam is situated about one km. south of Virampattinam, otherwise called Periya Virampattinam. It has been suggested that Virampattinam must have been known in short as everai' which expression occurs in stanza 106 of Agananooru. It has also been suggested that Veerai Velianar, the author of poem number 320 in Purananooru and Veerai Velian Thithanar, author of poem number 188 in Agananooru must have hailed from this Veerai during the Sangam period. 77

The famous eighteenth century Sengazhuneeramman temple dedicated to Mariamman is located in this village. The brahmothsavam and Muthupallaku festival celebrated for 11 days during the months of July-August attracts thousands of devotees. A fair is held at the time when brisk trade is carried on in articles of worship, fruits, vegetables, toys, earthen vessels, sweetmeat, dry fish, etc.

The Pattinavars form the majority of the village population who find their calling in sea-fishing. As there are neither tanks nor wells to irrigate the land and as agriculturists have to depend entirely on rains for their cultivation, only a few are engaged in agriculture and they raise only dry crops such as *cumbu*, *thinai* and vegetables. The rest of the working force is employed in trade and commerce, and other services.

Alongwith Virampattinam, Kakkayantoppu as well as Edaiyarpalaiyam have been identified as prehistoric and archaeological sites.

Vilidiyur C. Niravi

(Vizhidiur) A. 200.00 Ha.

P. 1,419 (1971)

This village is situated at a distance of 9.20 km. east of Karaikal. As a revenue village its jurisdiction extends to Kottupalaiyam and Manamutty. About 50 per cent. of the working force in this village are engaged in agriculture. Paddy is the wet crop and vegetables, chillies, pulses and plaintain are the dry crops raised in this village. Kangeyan canal is the source of irrigation for lands.

Sri Vizhinadhaswamy (Siva) temple, said to belong to the Chola period, is a monument of some importance. The temple is dedicated to Lord Siva known as Vizhinadhaswamy and his consort Sri Vimalambigai-Festivals such as Vijaya Dasami, Surasamharam and Thai Poosam are marked by festivities. Sri Varadaraja Perumal temple in the village is another important, landmark of the village. This temple, said to belong to the Chola period is noted also for its stone carvings.

सन्यापन जयन

## Yanam

Yanam is a small town with a population of 8,291 (1971). Situated on the northern bank of river Gautami Godavari where river Coringa branches off, it encompasses the settlements of Ambedkar Nagar, Agraharam, Farampeta (Adivipolam), Gerempeta, Mettakurru, Kanakalapeta, Kursampeta, Pedapudi, Salikotta, Dariyaltippa, Francetippa and Isukatippa.

Besides the Government House, the Mairie (now Municipality) the police station and jail, the court and the Block Development Office, the town has the facility of a Hospital, Junior College, a Degree College, a Fish Farm, separate hostels for harijan boys and girls, etc. St. Anne's Church together with its attached garden may perhaps be regarded as the only notable landmark of the town.

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सन्यमेव नयने

# CHAPTER—XX

# SRI AUROBINDO ASHRAM AND ITS AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

The Ashram is the Mother's creation, said Sri Aurobindo. The mother came to reside at Pondicherry in 1920 and the Ashram began to take shape under her loving care. But it can be said that the seed of the Ashram was sown a decade prior to that, in 1910, with Sri Aurobindo's arrival at Pondicherry.

Before we describe the circumstances leading to Sri Aurobindo's coming to Pondicherry, it would be in the fitness of things to give a brief survey of his earlier life.

## A brief sketch of Sri Aurobindo's early life;

"No one can write my life because it has not been on the surface for men to see," once Sri Aurobindo told one of his disciples who proposed to write a biography of his. Sri Aurobindo obviously paid much greater importance to his inner life, his struggles and achievements in the planes of consciousness, the story of which cannot be reconstructed following the conventional methods of chronology and documentation.

Sri Aurobindo was born at Calcutta, on August 15, 1872 the third child of Dr. K.D. Ghose and Swarnalata Devi. His mother was the daughter of Raj Narain Bose, known as a rishi for his spiritual pursuits. Raj Narain was a visionary and nationalist. People of Bengal heard him with awe and attention, so much so, that his friend Devendranath Tagore, father of the Poet Rabindranath, remarked, "Whatever falls from the lips of Raj Narain Babu creates a great sensation in the country".

It should have been natural for the boy, Aurobindo, to become a keen student of Indian heritage under the influence of such a grandfather. But his father, Dr. K.D. Ghose, who had his higher medical education in the West, was deeply in love with the western way of life. He disliked

almost everything Indian. In order to ensure that his three sons Manmohan (who later became a well-known poet in English), Benoy Bhushan and Aurobindo, grew up only under pure western influence from the beginning, he put them in an Irish nun's school at Darjeeling, the Loretto Convent.

After two years, in 1879, Sri Aurobindo and his brothers were taken to England by their parents. The parents returned, leaving the children in an English family of Manchester, the Drewetts. Mr. Drewett who was an accomplished scholar in Latin taught the language to Sri Aurobindo most efficiently and when the latter joined St. Paul's School in London in 1885, the headmaster took it upon himself to ground him personally in Greek and pushed him up rapidly through the higher classes.

Sri Aurobindo's literary genius had already budded forth while he was at Manchester. His poems were published in the Fox Family Magazine when he was barely ten. The genius flourished in London and Cambridge, expressing itself in many a hue, from highly reflective philosophical prose to verses vibrating with an original creative force.

Towards the end of 1889 Sri Aurobindo went to King's College. Cambridge, with a scholarship and studied there for two years. While at St. Paul's Sri Aurobindo had begun to pay greater attention to general reading outside the syllabus, particularly to English and French literatures and to the history of ancient, medieval and modern Europe. He picked up Italian, German and Spanish too. Although he devoted insufficient time to the college courses, he bagged all the prizes in King's College in one year for Greek and Latin verse.

At Cambridge Sri Aurobindo passed high in the First Part of the Tripos (First class). He could have got his B.A. degree at this stage on an application. But he did not bother.

Sri Aurobindo's father, Dr. Ghose, did not prove himself quite alert regarding the pecuniary needs of his three sons living so far away. From the beginning he had been irregular in remitting money for meeting their expenses. In later years he simply stopped sending any money at all. Sri Aurobindo recollected:

"During a whole year a slice or two of sandwhich bread and butter and a cup of tea in the morning and in the evening a penny saveloy formed the only food." As desired by his father, Sri Aurobindo had enrolled himself as a candidate for the I.C.S. All such candidates had tutors to help prepare them for the examination. But Sri Aurobindo had none. Still he secured high marks in all the papers. But when he was called to appear for a riding test, he did not turn up. He was given the chance three times. But he proved elusive.

Thus he got himself disqualified from the service without himself rejecting it, for he felt no call for the I.C.S. But this shocked his teachers and well-wishers. They pleaded with the authorities to admit him into the Civil Service eventhough he did not appear for the riding. But the authorities were in no mood to oblige them. And they had their own reasons for being adamant. While at Cambridge Sri Aurobindo was the Secretary of the 'Indian Majlis', an association of Indian students. In some meetings organised by the Majlis he had delivered fiery speeches denouncing the British rule in India. The authorities had taken note of this. No wonder that they would be happy to keep Sri Aurobindo out of the Civil Service.

During the last days of his stay in London Sri Aurobindo and some other young Indians formed a secret society and named it 'Lotus and the Dagger'. The members resolved to contribute each in his way, to the struggle for India's freedom. The society did not last long. But Sri Aurobindo kept his vow.

Sir Henry Cotton's brother introduced Sri Aurobindo to the Gaekwar of Baroda, Maharaja Sayaji Rao, on the latter's visit to London. The Maharaja offered Sri Aurobindo a position in the Baroda Service. Sri Aurobindo accepted it and left England in February 1893.

The ship in which he was scheduled to travel sank off Lisbon. The news reached his father who did not know that Sri Aurobindo was coming by another ship. He died of shock.

At Baroda, Sri Aurobindo joined the State Secretariat. After some time, at the request of the Principal of the Maharaja's College, he was appointed there as the Professor of English and French. Later he became the Vice-Principal of the College.

Life flowed in triple distinct streams during the thirteen years that Sri Aurobindo spent at Baroda. First, he became an ardent student of India's culture, literature and languages. He mastered them at incredible rapidity. He made free translation into English of some of the classics of India and wrote several plays and poems. Secondly, he wrote and planned for a country-wide revolutionary upsurge. And last but not the least, he began to practise Yoga.

In 1901 he married Mrinalini Devi, daughter of Bhupal Chandra Bose of Calcutta.

Very difficult it is to give an account of the political activities of Sri Aurobindo during this time, for they were carried on in utmost secrecy. He disliked the passive policy followed by the Congress then. He understood that if the Congress was allowed to go the way it was going, it would not go far and would reach no worthy goal. But that must not be. The Congress must stand for great ideals. If the present leaders were not able to give such a turn to the organisation, then they must be replaced by new leaders with bolder visions.

It was shortly after his arrival in India that he wrote a series of articles in a Bombay Paper, the *Indu Prakash*, entitled 'New Lamps for Old'. Disarmingly frank and forceful, his articles shook the very foundation of the peaceful citadel of the then Congress politics. In one of them he wrote:

"I say of the Congress, then, this, that its aims are mistaken, that the spirit in which it proceeds towards their accomplishment is not a spirit of sincerity and wholeheartedness, and that the methods it has chosen are not the right methods, and the leaders in whom it trusts are not the right sort of men to be leaders-in brief we are at present the blind led, if not by the blind, at any rate by the one-eyed".

These articles written anony-mously, created a stir. The young were thrilled. The orthodox leaders felt upset.

In no time Sri Aurobindo gathered around him some deeply dedicated followers like his younger brother Barindra Kumar, C.C. Dutt of the I.C.S. and soldier Jatin Banerjee who moved about forming secret societies all over the country. Hundreds of such societies cropped up, most of them appearing on the surface as associations for physical culture.

The spirit in which Sri Aurobindo was out to serve the country would be evident from the following portion of a private letter which he wrote to Mrinalini Devi from Baroda. (This letter, alongwith two more, became famous when the prosecution produced them in the court during the historic Alipore trial.)

"Whereas others regard the country as an inert object, and know it as the plains, the forests, the mountains and rivers, I look upon my country as the mother, I worship her and adore her as the mother. What would a son do when a demon sitting on the breast of his mother is drinking her blood? Would he sit down content to take his meals, and go on enjoying himself in the company of his wife and children, or would he, rather run to the rescue of his mother? I know I have the strength to uplift this fallen race; it is not physical strength, I am not going to fight with the sword or with the gun, but with the power of knowledge."

In 1905 Lord Curzon, the Viceroy, brought about the partition of Bengal. This gave a sudden boost to the anti-British feeling in Bengal. During the last days of his service at Baroda Sri Aurobindo visited Bengal from time to time and observed and sometimes guided the political developments there. But the time had come, it was felt, when he must participate in them openly.

One evening, in a mammoth public meeting at Calcutta, an affluent patriot, Subodh Mallik, announced a donation of one lakh rupees for founding a National College, entirely free from the control of the Government. But he made a condition that Sri Aurobindo must be persuaded to take charge of the institution.

सन्यापन जयन

Sri Aurobindo resigned his Baroda job—the monthly salary of Rs. 750 and many comforts and prospects—and joined as the Principal of the Calcutta National College on a salary of Rs. 150 which soon dwindled down to Rs. 50 and then to nil. The college flourished under Sri Aurobindo's direction. The accent was on creating men, courageous and truthful, and not on turning out a fresh batch of clerks for British India. But Sri Aurobindo could not continue to look after this novel educational experiment for long. Immediate and more pressing problems demanded his attention.

Philosopher, orator and political leader Bipin Chandra Pal planned to publish a newspaper which would serve as a link among the political workers of the country and which would mobilise the people behind the patriotic causes. Bipin Chandra requested Sri Aurobindo to help him. Sri Aurobindo agreed and the Bande Mataram, the herald of Indian revolution, was launched. In no time it proved a great success. The entire burden of this thriving paper soon came to rest on Sri Aurobindo.

Sri Aurobindo was the first leader to declare complete and absolute independence as the goal of the nationalist movement, through the pages of the Bande Mataram and in his public speeches. The difference between the Moderates and the Nationalists—the latter often called the Extremists—became clearly outlined and the Nationalists stood well-arrayed behind Sri Aurobindo. The party took up the word "Swaraj" to express its ideal. Sri Aurobindo put forward a new political programme for the country: Non-cooperation with the British administration, Passive Resistance, Swadeshi, boycott of British goods, National Education, settlement of disputes by popular arbitration, etc. History records that these were the principles on which the Indian freedom movement developed and matured.

The Calcutta Congress of 1906 passed resolutions demanding Swaraj and upholding the ideals of boycott and national education. This came about by the efforts of Sri Aurobindo, supported by Lokamanya Balagangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai among others. Although the Moderates, perhaps temporarily over-whelmed by the popular enthusiasm in favour of these resolutions, supported them, they soon girded up their loins and in the next session of the Congress at Surat (1907) made a determined effort to deter the reiteration of these resolutions. Pandemonium ensued and the Congress broke up. The Nationalists met separately. Sri Aurobindo became the idol of the youth of India.

Before long the Government instituted a case against Sri Aurobindo accusing him of preaching sedition through the Bande Mataram. This was the first newspaper in the country to be so charged with. It was a great sensation. Bipin Chandra Pal, who was compelled to appear in the court, refused to give evidence against Sri Aurobindo. For such non-cooperation with the law he was sentenced to imprisonment for six months. It was at this time that Rabindranath Tagore wrote the famous poem on Sri Aurobindo:

Rabindranath, O Aurobindo, bows to thee! O friend, my country's friend, O voice-incarnate, free, Of India's soul.

The charge against Sri Aurobindo could not be substantiated. It could not be proved that he was the editor. His acquittal was greeted with countrywide jubilation. Sri Aurobindo's popularity became still widespread.

With the growth of the Swadeshi sentiment and activities all over the country, the Government became desperately repressive. The Government was unfortunately not in a mood to listen to Sri Aurobindo who warned them again and again about the consequences of the measures it took to throttle the nationalist upsurge. As expected, groups of revolutionary youths reacted with violence. Their leader, undoubtedly, was Barindra Kumar, Sri Aurobindo's younger brother.

On 2 May 1908, a large police force raided the Muraripukur garden at Calcutta, a property of Sri Aurobindo and his brothers, and arrested a band of young men. Simultaneously they raided Sri Aurobindo's residence and arrested him.

Sri Aurobindo did not know most of the young men who were arrested. It is not possible to say how much he knew about their activities. The Government too was not sure of his association with the arrested youth. But as the records now show, the Government, afraid of the growing influence of Sri Aurobindo on the country's youth, was determined to incarcerate him by any means.

During the sensational trial (the judge was Mr. Beachcroft, Sri Aurobindo's class-mate at Cambridge, a brilliant student, next only to Sri Aurobindo). Sri Aurobindo was quietly approaching a new phase in his life. He stood far above all the hullabaloo.

The case dragged on for a full year. While confined alone in a cell in Alipore Jail, Sri Aurobindo was having waves of spiritual experiences and realisations.

Sri Aurobindo was defended by C.R. Das, later the celebrated Deshbandhu Chittaranjan. Famous are the words he addressed to the Judge and the members of the jury in concluding his statement.

"Long after he is dead and gone, his words will be echoed and re-echoed not only in India but across distant seas and lands. Therefore I say that the man in his position is not only standing before the bar of this court, but before the bar of the High Court of History."

On his acquittal Sri Aurobindo was hailed by the people and the Indian press as the 'Mahayogi' and 'the supreme leader of India'-tributes which no other leader is known to have hitherto earned.

By then the Bande Mataram had ceased publication and repression had dulled the edge of revolutionary enthusiasm in Bengal. But on the broader Indian scene two cardinal things had already been achieved: Independence was no more an utopia for the people. On the part of the British, their first shock had given way to a better appraisal of the reality. Lord Minto, the Viceroy, had at one point developed serious misgivings about the continuation of British rule in India. The process of yielding ground step by step had set in without their being quite conscious of it.

Sri Aurobindo brought out two weeklies, the *Karmayogin* in English and the *Dharma* in Bengali. They were no more entirely political; they appealed to a deeper spirit in man from which politics could derive its true character.

But eventhough India was relatively calm, a free Sri Aurobindo was too much for the Government. The Governor of Bengal wrote to Lord Minto, the Viceroy, "I attribute the spread of seditious doctrines to him (Sri Aurobindo) personally in a greater degree than to any other single individual in Bengal, or possibly in India. His attitude is one of a vowed and irreconcilable hostility towards the British Government; he has openly and persistently preached the doctrine of political boycott, with the intention of making Government impossible; and if, in his propaganda, he transgresses the criminal law, the law should unhesitatingly be put into operation against him" \*

<sup>\*</sup> For details of the attitude of Minto and Morley to Sri Aurobindo, India Under Morley and Minto by Dr. M.N. Das (George Allen and Unwin-London) and Sri Aurobindo in the First Decade of the Century by Manoj Das (Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry) can be consulted.

Lord Minto, of course, was too eager to shut up Sri Aurobindo. But Lord Morley, the Secretary of State for India, was not in his support. While at the Government level the debate on the advisability of arresting Sri Aurobindo was in full swing and Sri Aurobindo knew about it but did not bother—one evening he suddenly received what he termed as an Adesh—a guidance from above—to proceed to Chandernagore, a little French pocket not far from Calcutta. He did not pause to reflect or discuss. Within minutes he was on the bank of the Ganges, accompanied by two lieutenants. He had entrusted, through a note, Sister Nivedita with the editing of the Karmayogin.

A boat took him to Chandernagore. He stayed there in complete secrecy as the guest of a patriot who looked upon him as his guru. After a few weeks he again heard a command, this time asking him to proceed to Pondicherry. Sri Aurobindo acted forthwith.

Not knowing that Sri Aurobindo had left the British India, the Government finally decided to arrest him and issued a warrant. When they found out that Sri Aurobindo had disappeared, they left no stone unturned to trace his whereabouts. Fantastic reports and rumours were entertained by them. One report, for example, detected Sri Aurobindo in Tibet.

Leaving Chandernagore Sri Aurobindo returned to Calcutta in a small boat. Accompanied by a young man, Bijoy Nag, he approached a steamer leaving for Pondicherry. He was told that he cannot avail of a place in the steamer unless he obtained a health certificate from the steamer company's doctor.

It was almost midnight when Sri Aurobindo and Nag knocked on the English doctor's door inside the city.

"My God! You speak English remarkably well!" commented the doctor and issued the certificate to 'Jatindranath Mitra', the name Sri Aurobindo had assumed.

Suresh Chakravarthy, another devoted follower of Sri Aurobindo, had already arrived at Pondicherry a few days earlier, by the land route, to inform Srinivasachari and a few other patriots and admirers of Sri Aurobindo about his coming. Srinivasachari and others planned to accord a public reception to Sri Aurobindo. Suresh, however, succeeded in dissuading them from making such preparations.

# Sri Aurobindo's early days at Pondicherry:

It requires some imagination to visualise the face of Pondicherry as it was in the first decade of the century. Only two or three persons possessed cars—and the then Governor of this French Colony was not one of them. He was seen, Suresh Chakravarthy recounts in his autobiography moving about in a rickshaw.

The capital of French India had only one three storied building which belonged to Shankar Chatty. On his arrival on April 4, 1910. Sri Aurobindo was accommodated in the top floor of this house.

Sri Aurobindo's rarliest companions at Pondicherry were Suresh Chakravarthy and Bijoy Nag. They were from among his numerous political followers. In October, 1910, Saurin Bose joined them. And then, in November, came Nolini Kanta Gupta, one of the closest Lieutenants of Sri Aurobindo during his Calcutta days, who later became the Secretary of Sri Aurobindo Ashram.\*

From Shankar Chetty's house, Sri Aurobindo shifted to a house owned by Sunder Chetty in rue Suffren in October 1910 alongwith his companions. They changed to another house, belonging to Raghav Chetty, in rue St. Louis, in April, 1911. In April, 1913 they went over to a house in rue des Missions Etrangères. They again changed in October 1913, to a house in rue François Martin. In September, 1922, they changed to a house in rue de la Marine. This is a part of the present block of the main Ashram building. In February, 1928, Sri Aurobindo changed over to an adjacent house which too is embraced by the main Ashram building.

The British-Indian Government resorted to several means to get Sri Aurobindo back within their reach. It was not possible to arrest him from the French territory. A certain rich politician agreed to kidnap Sri Aurobindo and carry him out of the Pondicherry territory to facilitate his arrest by the British-Indian police. But before the man had a chance to carry out the plan, a warrant was issued against him for some other offence and he had to leave Pondicherry himself in order to evade arrest.

<sup>\*</sup> Sri Nolini Kanta Gupta (b. 1889) is acknowledged today as one of the greatest thinkers of modern India. His collected works (published in 5 volumes by the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, Pondicherry, financially sponsored by the Government of India) make a remarkable contribution to the interpretation of social and psychological issues, the Yoga apart.

secretly threw a box containing some forged The British agents revolutionary literatures into a well in a house where the famous poet Bharathi was staying. They planned to search the house, 'discover' the box and get Bharathi as well as Sri Aurobindo arrested, on the strength of what the papers prepared by themselves contained! But Bharathi's servant by chance salvaged the box before swooped down upon the house and on Sri Aurobindo's advice Bharathi find! However, on persistent himself informed the police about the demands from the British agents that Sri Aurobindo's house be searched, the Magistrate, M. Nandot, visited Sri Aurobindo's house with a party, but went back, deeply impressed by coming in Sri Aurobindo's contact.

The British sent a spy from Bengal who stayed with one of the inmates of Sri Aurobindo's 'household', but just at the conclusion of his assignment, he suddenly made a clean breast of his mission, weeping before Sri Aurobindo and even offering to surrender the remuneration he had received from his employers.

In 1915, when Lord Carmichael was the Governor of Bengal, the Government asked Sri Aurobindo if he would like to return to British-India. If yes, the Government would readily lift the ban that was still in force against him. Sri Aurobindo conveyed that he had no wish to go. Soon thereafter a top-ranking official of the Government visited Pondicherry and proposed that if Sri Aurobindo would be pleased to return to British-India, the Government would be happy to arrange for him a bungalow at Darjeeling where he could comfortably follow his intellectual and spiritual pursuits.

The Government, we may conjecture, had two motives. On the one hand it wanted to be sure of the nature of his activities. On the other hand, it wanted to boost its waning prestige by patronising the personality that was Sri Aurobindo. Sri Aurobindo, however, refused the offer.

As a last bid the British Government negotiated with the French Government, at Paris, for extradition proceedings against Sri Aurobindo. But there were French officers at the helm of affairs at Pondicherry who would not entertain any such move.

Bharathi and Sri Aurobindo: Bharathi was among the earliest contacts of Sri Aurobindo at Pondicherry, Sri Aurobindo's impact on his literary genius has been discussed by scholars. This revolutionary patriot poet was living in self-exile at Pondicherry. K. Amrita (then known as Aravamudachari), who came in contact with Sri Aurobindo at the age of 14 and after his studies entirely dedicated himself to his service, recollects

"Not a single evening would pass without Bharathi's calling on Sri Aurobindo. Bharathi delighted in pouring out to Sri Aurobindo all that he had read in the dailies, all about local affairs and happenings in the suburbs. And if, however, Sri Aurobindo made comments on one or two of the points raised, his joy would know no bounds.

"On his way to Sri Aurobindo's house, Bharathi would first call at Srinivasachari's, go with him to the beach, stay there till 7 p.m. and then make for Sri Aurobindo's house. The three together would jocularly discuss a variety of subjects. Bharathi, on his way back, would often halt for a while at Srinivasachari's and then go home. (As soon as they reached home from Sri Aurobindo's the people assembled there would put the identical question: 'What did Sri Aurobindo say today?')."

Among others who came in contact with Sri Aurobindo then were the scholar and revolutionary V.V.S. Iyer and V. Ramaswamy Iyengar, known in the Tamil literary world as 'Va-Ra'.

Sri Aurobindo's birthday was celebrated, for the first time at Pondicherry, in 1912. As A.B. Purani records, "Some local people, Sada, Petrus, David and four others besides the members of the house took part in the celebration. Sri Aurobindo sat on a chair in the outer verandah (in the house in rue des Missions Etrangères) and all those who had come passed one by one in front of him. Some sweets were distributed."

Towards the end of the first decade of Sri Aurobindo's stay at Pondicherry, Tilak sent a messenger to him, inviting him to come back to politics and take up the leadership of the Congress. Later, in 1920, Dr. Moonje and K.B. Redgewar, well-known Congress leaders, came to Pondicherry with the proposal that Sri Aurobindo should preside over the Congress Session scheduled to take place at Nagpur. Sri Aurobindo, of course, could not oblige them. Among others, who came to see Sri Aurobindo during this year were the celebrated revolutionaries

Sarala Devi and Barrister P. Mitter and S. Doraiswamy Iyer, later an eminent lawyer at Madras. In 1923 came C.R. Das. In 1925 came Lala Lajpat Rai and Purushottamdas Tandon to seek Sri Aurobindo's light on some political problems.

In 1928 came Rabindranath Tagore. In the following year came Sylvain Lévi, the renowned French savant. Among the visitors of the early phase were Sir Akbar Hyderi, Tamil writer Sudhananda Bharathi, and politician Surendra Mohan Ghosh. They were followed by Kannada poet D.R. Bendre, professors of Philosophy, S.K. Maitra, Indra Sen and many other well-known people. These were only the beginning. A long list can be made of illustrious visitors—Prime Ministers, Presidents, Kings statesmen, philosophers, writers, journalists, etc. who have visited the Ashram since, not to speak of thousands of others among whom there could be many genuine seekers.

The Mother comes to Pondicherry: The Mother, known in her younger days as Mira Alfassa, was born in Paris, in a well-known family, on 21 February 1878. She was a child with a difference. She used to spontaneously meditate while very young and was conscious that she had a special mission on the earth. In her vision she used to see her spiritual guide. Herself an artist of profound genius, she had even made a sketch of the guide. In 1914 when she saw Sri Aurobindo, she instantly realised that it is he whom she used to see in her vision.

The Mother had spent a few years in Algeria, exploring occult truths under the guidance of a couple: Theon, a Polish adept and his French wife.

M. Paul Richard, the Mother's husband, had visited Pondicherry soon after Sri Aurobindo's arrival here and had been so deeply moved by him that he spoke to an audience in Japan soon thereafter.

"The hour is coming of great things, of great events, and also of great men, divine men of Asia. All my life I have sought for them across the world, for all my life I have felt they must exist somewhere in the world, that this world would die if they did not live. For they are its light, its heat, its life. It is in Asia that I found the greatest among them—the leader, the hero of tomorrow. His name is Aurobindo."

In 1914 the Mother, accompanied by M. Richard, came to Pondicherry and met Sri Aurobindo on 29 March. She at once realised that Sri Aurobindo was her spiritual collaborator. It is significant in this context what the Mother said on 1 November 1954, the day the de facto merger of Pondicherry took place with the independent India. She said:

"From the first time I came to India—in 1914 I felt that India is my true country, the country of my soul and spirit. I had decided to realise this wish as soon as India would be free..

"But in accordance with Sri Aurobindo's ideal, my purpose is to show that truth lies in union rather than in division. To reject one nationality in order to obtain another is not an ideal solution.

I am French by birth and early education, I am Indian by choice and predilection. In my consciousness there is no antagonism between the two.. my only aim in life is to give a concrete form to Sri Aurobindo's great teaching and in his teaching he reveals that all the nations are essentially one and meant to express the Divine unity upon earth through an organised and harmonious diversity."

The Mother had to return to France due to the exigencies of the 1st World War, in 1915, on 22 February. For the first time her birthday was observed at Pondicherry the day before her departure, on 21 February.

thing had been done before the Mother left—the But a great launching of the Arva, a philosophical review. The first issue appeared on Sri Aurobindo's birthday, on the 15 August, 1914. It had edition too, entitled Revue de la Grande Synthèse. The French edition could not continue for long due to the conditions arising out of the World War. But the role the Arya played can hardly be exaggerated. Most of major works were first serialised in the Arva. Sri Aurobindo's publication continued till 1921 and ran into 77 numbers.

## The growth of Sri Aurobindo Ashram:

The Mother came back in 1920, reaching Pondicherry on the 24 of April. We can trace the development of the Ashram to this time, although it has grown spontaneously over decades—quite like an organic growh without any pre-conceived plan or scheme.

How did the arrival of the Mother affect those who stayed with Sri Aurobindo? Nolini Kanta Gupta, one of the earliest companions of Sri Aurobindo and the Secretary of the Ashram, says:

"Our mode of living, our life itself took a different turn with Mother.. Mother the arrival of the The came and installed Sri Aurobindo on his high pedestal of Master and Lord of Yoga..... the by her manner and speech, and showed us in Mother taught us actual practice, what was the meaning of disciple master; she and has always practised what she preached. She showed us, by not taking her seat in front of or on the same level as Sri Aurobindo. but by sitting on the ground, what it meant to be respectful to one's Master, what was real courtesy."

Aspirants, seeking Sri Aurobindo's guidance in their spritual pursuits, came from all walks of life. To begin with, they came slowly. In 1926, the year Sri Aurobindo gave himself up exclusively to a strenuous phase of his Yoga and the Mother took up the burden of managing the disciples and the establishment; there were only about 25 people with them. Two years later, the number had reached 80, among them English lady), (Miss Hodgson, an Pavitra (P.B.St. an Ex-captain in the French army during the war and an intellectual the Director of Sri Aurobindo who later became International Centre of Education, and Arjava (J A. Chadwick), a brilliant scholar from Cambridge and a poet.

Before long came many more seekers of a spiritual life, them several distinguished poets like K.D. Sethna and Harindranath Chattopadhyay, author and musician like Dilip Kumar Roy, Miss Margaret Woodrow Wilson, daughter of the American President Woodrow Wilson, a savant like Kapali Shashtri, a revolutionary and orator, A. B. Purani, a highly qualified doctor, who under Sri Aurobindo's influence turned a poet and a professor of literature-Nirodbaran, scholars like Rishabhchand, Sisirkumar Mitra and M.P. Pandit and dozens of people from various walks of life. Although social achievements and talents have their own place in the world also in the Ashram which hums with activities, the and and Sri Aurobindo accepted disciples not at all on the bases Mother of education, social status, fame, talent or virtue, but according to the person's aspiration or his or her spiritual destiny judged on the mystic scales of their seer-vision. Those accepted were not ones who were

ascetics or necessarily disillusioned with the world. Since the Yoga of Sri Aurobindo was meant for the transformation of the world, inmates of the Ashram represented various levels and types of the complex world-consciousness. Religion or caste, race or nationality were no bar for being admitted into the Ashram. From the very beginning the Ashram assumed an international character in the tru: and all-round sense of the term.

In 1942, the number of the Ashramites was 350. By 1952, it had become 800. In 1962, it was more than 1,200. In 1974, excluding the students of the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, the number was about 1,800.

Apart from being the spiritual guide of those in the Ashram and innumerable people outside, the Mother was herself an exemplary worker. "Let us work as we pray, for indeed work is the body's best prayer to the Divine," she said. There is no facet of life, no sphere of work, which cannot be covered by a spiritual attitude and which cannot serve as a spring board for a higher life. All the inmates of the Ashram work, but not with the purpose of meeting their personal needs. Work is a part of their sadhana.

When people visited her, on their birthdays or otherwise, she gave them flowers. These flowers had received special significance from her. She read their hidden splendour and named them accordingly. For example, the lotus meant the Divine Consciousness; red rose meant Love; the yellow rose-Peace; the pink rose-Surrender; the jasmine-Psychic Purity; the lily-Mahalaxmi's wealth; the golden champaca-Supramental Psychological Perfection; the yellow champaca-the Mother's Smile; the bougainvillaea-Protection; the tube rose-new creation, etc.

Ashram is marked Life in the by an inner discipline. There are, however, some external rules of discipline to be followed: The to smoke, not to sadhaks are required not take alcoholic drinks. not to participate in politics and not to indulge in sex life.

The sadhana in the Ashram is based on the sadhak aspiring for a higher consciousness, his surrender to the Divine and a constant effort at rejecting all falsehood from his actions and thoughts. A sadhak can have his own time for meditation either in his own room or in the courtyard around the samadhi of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, or in the Meditation Hall. Collective meditations take place twice every week, on Sundays and Thursdays, in the evening.

The passing away of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother: Sri Aurobindo left his body on December 5, 1950. The body was laid in Samadhi on December 9, 1950. The inscription on the Samadhi, signed by the Mother, reads:

December 9, 1950.

TO THEE WHO HAST BEEN THE MATERIAL ENVELOPE OF OUR MASTER, TO THEE OUR INFINITE GRATITUDE, BEFORE THEE WHO HAST DONE SO MUCH FOR US. WHO HAST WORKED, STRUGGLED, SUFFERED, HOPED, ENDURED SO MUCH, BEFORE THEE WHO HAST WILLED ALL, ATTEMPTED ALL, PREPARED, ACHIEVED ALL FOR US. BEFORE THEE WE BOW DOWN AND **IMPLORE** THAT WE MAY NEVER FORGET **EVEN** FOR MOMENT, ALL WE OWE TO THEE.

The Mother left her body on November 17, 1973. Sri Aurobindo's Samadhi had an upper chamber where her body was placed on the 20th November.

The birth centenary of Sri Aurobindo: The world observed Sri Aurobindo's Birth Centenary in 1972. The celebrations at numerous places all over the world took the forms of symposiums, seminars, publication of souvenirs, essay and oratorical competitions among students, and collective meditations.

of India had instituted a National Centenary Government Committee with the Prime Minister as the Chairman, Committees had also been at the State and District levels. The formed Government of Bengal handed over the house where Sri Aurobindo is believed to have been born, to Sri Aurobindo Samiti, Calcutta. The Government of Gujarat had handed over the house where Sri Aurobindo lived while at Baroda, to the local Sri Aurobindo Society, a year before the centenary. Sahitya Akademi organised four zonal seminars, with well-known writers and scholars participating at Madras, Calcutta, Benaras and Bombay. Then, the Akademi organised a national seminar in Delhi, inaugurated by the President of India. Thereafter the national committee convened an international seminar with some of the world's leading thinkers participating.

In 30 magnificent volumes, the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust brought out the collected works of Sri Aurobindo. For the brilliance of the production they have won the national award. They are produced at the Ashram's own printing press.

Under the auspices of the Lieutenant-Governor of Pondicherry a series of talks on various aspects of Sri Aurobindo was held at the Raj Nivas. The All India Radio, Pondicherry, presented a number of imaginative features, talks and cultural programmes. The Directorate of Information, Pondicherry brought out a commemorative volume.

The Post and Telegraphs Department issued, to mark the Centenary, a special stamp with Sri Aurobindo's symbol. (Sri Aurobindo's portraitstamp had been issued earlier, in 1964.) The symbol depicts two triangles one ascending and the other descending. The descending triangle represents Sat-Chit-Ananda (Existence-Consciousness-Bliss). The ascending represents the aspiring answer from matter under the form life, light and love. The junction of the two-the central square-is the perfect manifestation having at its centre the Avatar of the Supremethe lotus. The water—inside the square—represents the multiplicity, the creation. (It may also be relevant to mention here the symbol of the shows two circles. The four petals in the first circle represents four great of the Divine Mother; the twelve petals in the outer circle represent twelve powers, "the vibrations that are necessary for the complete manifestation".)

The National Committee also financed the construction of a Youth Hostel at Pondicherry, which could serve as a venue of Youth-meetings and accommodate the delegates.

The international character of the Ashram: "Here comes Sri Aurobindo, completest synthesis that has been realised of the genius of Europe.." said Romain Rolland. Brought up and genius educated in England, Sri Aurobindo, no sooner had he returned to India, zealous explorer of India's mystic heritage and its than turned foremost interpreter. The Mother came from France. Yet all those in India who had turned to the light of Sri Aurobindo, in no time accepted her as their spiritual mother.

Beginning with the admission into the Ashram of Miss Hodgson (Datta) from England and P.B. Saint-Hilaire (Pavitra) from France, hundreds from all over the world have found their of people home in the Ashram. Sri Aurobindo Ashram is not only the world's biggest according to visitors, it is the only place on earth where people nationalities have gathered voluntarily and have harmoniously.

When the leader of the French Cultural Commission, Maurice Schumann and M. Baron, the Governor of French India, met Sri Aurobindo, "Aurobindo's suggestion was that, while Pondicherry and other French areas should certainly merge with India immediately, they should also have the right to retain their cultural (as distinct from political) contact with France."

Many of Sri Aurobindo's disciples were associated with several important national and world events. To their appeals for light, Sri Aurobindo and the Mother always responded with their guidance. Most of such messages and letters are available now in his collected works.

In 1949 a Govenment Press Note said that numerous inquiries are being received by their agencies about Sri Aurobindo Ashram. Since then, while on the one hand the knowledge about Sri Aurobindo and the Ashram have spread considerably, on the other hand, a far greater quest about the same has been evidenced in various parts of the world. Numerous centres to study Sri Aurobindo's works have grown up; universities have arranged special discourses (in India some universities have created or are proposing to create special chairs for teaching Sri Aurobindo's works); T.V., radio and newspapers come out with special features from time to time and seminars and conferences are held on Sri Aurobindo's vision. We can cite only a few instances: During 1971 and 1972 a number of features on the Ashram were shown on the T.V. in the West. On the occasion of the bicentennial celeberations of the Columbia University, U.S.A., discussion on Sri Aurobindo was a highlight. In California, the Institute of Cultural Integration Fellowship devotes itself to a great extent to the exposition of Sri Aurobindo's vision. Some of the major works of Sri Aurobindo had American editions. Renowned thinkers like P.A. Sorokin and had their professors like Dr. Frederic Spiegelberg, E.A. Burtt (Cornell University), Raymond F. Piper (Syracuse University), Bernard Philips (Delaware University), are among those who have introduced Sri Aurobindo to America.

Apart from a number of centres in the U.S.A., there have been centres in Canada and Mexico as well. Sri Aurobindo was widely discussed in the International Congress of Philosophy (1954) at Sao Paulo, Brazil. Chile's Nobel Laureate poet, Gabriela Mistral, had said, "Indeed, my debt to India is very great and is due in part to Tagore and in part to Sri Aurobindo."

"Sri Aurobindo is the greatest contemporary philosopher and great in the company of the greatest mystics of all time," said Rev. H.F.F. Hill reflects the admiration a number of and his statement British intellectuals and mystics have currently developed for Sri Aurobindo-One of the pioneers in this in England had been Sir Francis Younghusband. other thinkers. professors and authors popularising works of Sri Aurobindo in England and the adjacent part of the world Donnelly (from Ireland), G.H. Langley and Dorothy. Morewenna M. Richardson. There are several others, like critic Prof. Wilson Wright H.D. Lewis and Herbert Read who have paid tributes Sri Aurobindo's genius. There are two regular Sri Aurobindo centres, one in London and the other at Cambridge.

Sri Aurobindo Centre in Paris is an active organisation. Considerable interest is shown in Sri Aurobindo by intellectuals as well as youth all over France. When in 1955 the University of Sorbonne observed the fifth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo's passing away under the presidentship of Jean Filliozat, Professor of Indology at the College of France and Director of the French Institute of Pondicherry, several well-known scholars participated in it. Several research scholars have received their doctorates on Sri Aurobindo from this university.

Regular centres run in Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand and Holland, among other countries in Europe.

Sri Aurobindo Centres and branches of Sri Aurobindo Society are operating in the following places of Asia and Africa: Nairobi (Kenya). N'dola (Zambia), Kobe and Osaka (Japan), Colombo (Ceylon), Singapore, Malaysia, Port Louis (Mauritius), Dacca (Bangla desh), Kathmandu (Nepal) and Timpu (Bhutan).

In concluding this section it need be emphasised that the Ashram is international because what Sri Aurobindo and the Mother represent is the future of entire humanity. Such a future, naturally, will be above many a pettiness which beset our time. Sri Aurobindo says, "Our aim is not.. to found a religion or a school of philosophy or a school of Yoga, but to create a ground and a way which will bring down a greater Truth beyond the mind but not inaccessible to the human soul and

consciousness. All can pass who are drawn to the Truth, whether they are from India or elsewhere, from the East or from the West. All may find great difficulties in their personal or common human nature; but it is not their physical origin or their racial temperament that can be an insuperable obstacle to their deliverance."

Important days in the Ashram: Sri Aurobindo and the Mother—after 1950 the Mother alone—gave Darshan to the inmates of the Ashram as well as to the numerous visitors who came to Pondicherry from all over India and many parts of the world. The following four days are known as the Darshan days:

21 February: The Birthday of the Mother. Collective meditation is held in the morning, around the Samadhi, and ashramites and visitors can pass through Sri Aurobindo's room. In the evening the members of the Department of Physical Education have their march past in the playground, giving salute to the Mother.

24 April: On this day in 1920, the Mother came to Pondicherry for staying on permanently. The programme is as above.

15 August: Sri Aurobindo's Birthday. Programme as above.

24 November: This day marks a milestone in Sri Aurobindo's Yoga, for, on this day, in 1926, he achieved victory over what is known in his Yogic vocabulary as the Overmind. This victory prepares the advent of the Supermind, the goal of his Yoga. The programme is as above.

Of great significance too is the 29 February. On this day, in 1956, a descent took place in the earth consciousness, as a result of which, the Mother said on April 24 of the same year, "The Manifestation of the Supramental upon earth is no more a promise but a living fact, a reality". The Mother further said, "It is at work here, and a day will come when the most blind, the most unconscious, even the most unwilling shall be obliged to recognise it." This day 29 February is known as the Golden Day.

Other important days in the Ashram are New Year's Day which the Mother used to welcome with herself playing the organ and giving a message; 4 April, the day Sri Aurobindo arrived at Pondicherry (1910); 5 December, the day Sri Aurobindo left his body (1950); 9 December, the day of his Mahasamadhi; 17 November, the day the Mother left her body (1973) and 20 November, the day of her Mahasamadhi.

The Ashram also observes the Christmas. The Mother used to give Blessings on the occasions of Saraswathi Puja, Vijaya Dasami and Deepayali too.

The first of every month is known in the Ashram as the 'Prosperty Day'. The ashramites, on this day, get their requirements for the whole month.

In order to celebrate the anniversary of the Ashram School, the Department of Physical Education gives a gala demonstration of mass drill, gymnastics and other exercises, Eastern and Western, on the 2 December of every year. On the 3rd, the students generally stage a dramatic performance.

Sri Aurobindo Ashram is at the same time a centre for the practice of yoga, a seat of learning and knowledge, a home for students and teachers, an institution for research in those yogic and educational methods whereby the highest spiritual values can be reconciled with the utmost dynamism of life and action. Its aims are:

- (1) to create and establish an atmosphere surcharged with the highest values of Knowledge, Harmony, Power and Realisation particularly on the basis of the ideal and teaching of Sri Aurobindo;
- (2) to be a centre preparing for the evolutionary transmutation of man by a radical yogic change of consciousness;
- (3) to provide to each student and candidate the necessary stimulus to discover through a process of psychological exploration his inmost self;
- (4) to evolve and realise a system of integral education, with special emphasis on the growth of consciousness which is the master-key for unity in the world and ultimately for the evolution of the entire race:
- (5) to emphasise the unity of all knowledge and to break the artificial barriers between Humanities, Science, Technology and Fine Arts;
- (6) to develop a sense of international collaboration and oneness of mankind;
- (7) to discover and prepare for the role that India has to play in the formation of the new international harmony.

The Ashram Departments: The Ashram has a variety of departments The Ashram Dining Hall serves the inmates and visitors and services. simple vegetarian food-breakfast, lunch and dinner. The House Maintenance Service takes care of the hundreds of buildings, either owned or hired by the Ashram. There is a Building Construction Service too. Then there are Sanitary Service, Furniture Service-with carpentry and workshop; Tailoring and Radio repair Service, Foot-wear Service, Embroidery section, Watch Service, Bakery, Fuel Service, Photo framing and Book-binding, Handloom Sections, Cottage Industries producing hosiery, textiles, coir and cane handicrafts and toys etc., the Prosperity Service which provides the Ashramites with their needs, Transport Service, Postal Service, Granary, Bureau Centra, which receives the visitors and arranges for their stay, Reception Service which helps visitors to show around the Ashram, Liaison Service, dealing with labour and inter-departmental affairs, Garden and Flower Service which maintains a number of Ashram gardens and supplies flowers for the Samadhi and for the Ashram houses and for people who wish to offer Samadhi, the Students Dining Section (known as the Corner at the House), two workshops including automobiles and machinery repairs and a number of other facilities, smithy and foundry, paddy fields, gardens and orchards which supply a considerable part of the Ashram's requirements of rice, fruits and vegetables, Dairy, Handmade Paper Department—one of the finest handmade paper manufacturers in the country, two printing presses with facility for printing in several of world's and India's major languages, Photographic Section which conducts an international exhibition of photographs in August every year, Electric Service, Laundry, Art Gallery, Perfumery, Dental and Physiotherapy Clinics, Allopathic, Homoeoand Nature-Cure Clinics, Eye Clinic and a Surgical pathic, Ayurvedic Clinic, Centres of sale of books, pictures, etc.

Besides, there are departments of cultural activity affiliated to the Centre of Education.

The Ashram Trust runs several shops too, like the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Central Sales Organisation, Sri Aurobindo Book Distribution Agency, Honesty Society, etc.

The Ashram Library has a large collection of select books, including many rare ones. The Library receives a number of prestigious journals in various languages.

The Ashram and Sri Aurobindo Society maintain about 20 guest houses. The situation of most of them are beautiful, some on the sea front. The charges have a wide range for the guests to choose.

The city of Pondicherry and the Ashram complex which is spread all over the city have developed an intimate interdependence through the decades. The Ashram's contribution to the city, in the cultural and economic fields can hardly be exaggerated. The Ashram employs, through its various departments and institutions, about 2,700 workers, with well-planned facilities for them. A couple of Ashram institutions run schools for the children of their workers. Local farmers are taught modern methods of agriculture by Ashram farms. Ashram is the biggest tenant of Pondicherry, hiring nearly 300 houses.

The Ashram Publications: The publications of the Ashram, which began in 1914 with the monthly Arya, are acknowledged today to have made a cardinal contribution to the making of modern Indian culture, thought, education and vision, and in projecting the light of India on the world scene. The works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother apart, various publication units of the Ashram have brought out hundreds of titles by scholars and sadhaks, on mysticism, literature, and philosophy as well as creative works like poetry and stories, in different languages, Indian and international.

Among the regular periodicals published from the Ashram are *The Bulletin of Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education*, a quarterly, with the text running in English and French side by side. *The Bulletin's* significant content is the personal spiritual experiences of the Mother as narrated by herself, and her answers to questions. Each issue of the *Bulletin* contains a number of photographs depicting the latest activities of the Ashram.

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Another quarterly, in English, is the Advent, devoted to the exposition of the vision and the works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, with contributions from authorities.

The *Mother India*, a monthly review of culture in English, presents a variety of carefully selected items from highly intellectual essays to creative literature - stories and poetry.

The All India Magazine is an English monthly publication of Sri Aurobindo Society, which gives topic - wise selections from the writings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, apart from reports of the activities of the Society. Besides English, this has a few editions in other languages.

The World Union is a quarterly magazine in English published by the international organisation which bears the same name. Articles published are on the problems and ideals of human unity, as well as about new developments of sociological and psychological significance.

Sri Aurobindo's Action is a pictorial English monthly published by the organisation bearing the same name, giving extracts from the writings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, mostly related to current problems, and features by others. It focusses on Auroville too. This has a few editions in some other languages.

Gazette Aurovillienne is a French bi-monthly, high-lighting the developments in Auroville.

Sri Aurobindo Society publishes an annual anthology, with some extracts from the works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother and articles by others.

Among other publications are the Arul (Tamil), Bartika (Bengali), Dipti (Kannada), Dakshina (Gujarati), Arka (Telugu), Sanjeevan (Marathi), Navajvoti (Oriya), Purodha (published separately in Hindi and Bengali for the young), Agnishikha (Hindi), and Naba Prakash (Oriya).

The circulation of magazines like the Bulletin, the Advent, the Mother India, and the World Union are not limited to India. They command a good number of subscribers abroad.

It is to be noted that apart from the publications from the Ashram, a number of anthologies, souvenirs and even regular magazines are brought out by Sri Aurobindo Centres in India and abroad.

# The vision and message of Sri Aurobindo:

Sri Aurobindo, like the Indian sages of yore, sees the Supreme Reality behind the surface appearance of the creation. The ignorance which veils that Reality can be rent as under by Yoga.

The Spirit is involved in matter. This Spirit reveals itself more and more through the process of Evolution. "Life is the first step of this release of consciousness; mind is the second; but the evolution does not finish with mind, it awaits a release into something greater, a consciousness which is spiritual and supramental. The next step of the evolution must be towards the development of Supermind and Spirit as the dominant power in the conscious being. For only then will the involved Divinity in things release itself entirely and it becomes possible for life to manifest perfection."

The process of Evolution was mechanical, unconscious, till man evolved. But now, in order that a sublime race can evolve out of him, man should consciously aspire for it.

Although Sri Aurobindo was rarely seen by the people, he took care to put down his experiences, guidance and vision in writing. His works are the prized possession of the seekers of all countries. His in English language and according to many the is the longest epic written. It is the spiritual history of man and it greatest epic ever also reveals man's destiny. In 'The Life Divine' Sri Aurobindo discusses the life, his struggles, his suffering and joys-and the mystery of man's ultimate end of all this. In 'The Synthesis of Yoga' is given an exposition of the various ways taken by seekers and the truths found by them through the ages and their ultimate synthesis. Then, there is 'The Ideal of Human Unity' in which he lays down the principles through which the world can achieve a lasting and dynamic integration. 'The Human Cycle' presents in an epitome the psychology of individual and social developments. In 'The Foundations of Indian Culture' is given an enlightening analysis and interpretation of the art, literature and all the forms of culture of India. This is only to name a few.

Sri Aurobindo's vision is considered by modern thinkers as of greatest importance in the context of the contemporary developments in the world.

In the life of Time never had a century been more significant, more eventful as the last hundred years. Man has fought the one defeated darker forces; man greatest of wars ever known. Man has has also been defeated by darker forces.

Man has taken mighty strides in scientific progress. But instead of feeling mighty, he sees himself as the silly little man. He goes to great heights; the little mind accompanies him. He comes back; the little mind has come back too.

Man does not live by asserting himself on his gigantic inventions, but often by escaping from them.

But this is not all the man of the century is. He is also the being who weeps, bleeds in his heart, for his blunders. He is still the being who hates his own hypocrisy; who understands that hypocrisy is the tribute vice pays to virtue and since there is so much hypocrisy there is bound to be a castleful of virtues.

He is still the being who dreams and sings and feels that somewhere there is bound to be the grand reality from where these dreams and songs arise.

Sri Aurobindo has drawn attention to that reality. But he has also warned: "At present mankind is undergoing an evolutionary crisis in which is concealed a choice of its destiny." But Sri Aurobindo has also given the key to the right choice.

Where intellect stops with this significant groping there comes the vision of the Seer. Man is a transitional being, not final. He must transcend himself and emerge into a new being. This is the demand of the law of evolution—imperative and absolute. If he does not respond to the demand, it is doubtful if he would survive the conditions he has created for himself.

On the occasion of India's independence, Sri Aurobindo gave the following message, at the request of All India Radio. It is reproduced here, as it is significant from many angles, giving a glimpse of the ideal he stood for and his vision of India's future:

August 15, 1947 is the birthday of free India. It marks for her the end of an old era, the beginning of a new age. But we can also make it by our life and acts as a free nation an important date in a new age opening for the whole world, for the political, social, cultural and spiritual future of humanity.

August 15 is my own birthday and it is naturally gratifying to me that it should have assumed this vast significance. I take this coincidence, not as a fortuitous accident, but as the sanction and seal of the Divine Force that guides my steps on the work with which I began life, the beginning of its full fruition. Indeed, on this day I can watch almost all the world movements which I hoped to see fulfilled in my lifetime, though then they looked like impracticable dreams, arriving at fruition or on their way to achievement. In all these movements free India may well play a large part and take a leading position.

The first of these dreams was a revolutionary movement which would create a free and united India. India today is free but she achieved unity. At one moment it almost seemed as if in the very act of liberation she would fall back into the chaos of separate preceded the British conquest. But fortunately it now seems probable that this danger will be averted and a large and powerful though not yet a complete union will be established. Also the wisely drastic policy of the Constituent Assembly has made it probable that the problem of the depressed classes will be solved without schism or fissure. But the old communal division into Hindus and Muslims seems now hardened into a permanent political division of the country. It is to be hoped that this settled fact will not be accepted as settled for ever or as anything more than a temporary expedient. For if it lasts, India be seriously weakened, even crippled; civil strife may remain always possible, possible even a new invasion and foreign conquest. India's internal development and prosperity may be impeded, her position among the nations weakened, her destiny impaired or even frustrated. This must not be; the partition must go. Let us hope that that may come about naturally, by an increasing recognition of the necessity not only of peace and concord but of common action, by the practice of common action and the creation of means for that purpose. In this way unity may finally come about under whatever form—the exact form may have a pragmatic but not a fundamental importance. But by whatever means, in whatever way, the division must go, unity must and will be achieved, for it is necessary for the greatness of India's future.

Another dream was for the resurgence and liberation of the people of Asia and her return to her great role in the progress of human civilisation. Asia has arisen; large parts are now quite free or are at this moment

being liberated; its other still subject or partly subject parts are moving through whatever struggles towards freedom. Only a little has to be done and that will be done today or tomorrow. There India has her part to play and has begun to play it with an energy and ability which already indicate the measure of her possibilities and the place she can take in the council of the nations.

dream was a world-union forming the outer basis of a fairer, brighter and nobler life for all mankind. That unification of the human world is under way; there is an imperfect imitation organised but struggling against tremendous difficulties. But the momentum is there and it must inevitably increase and conquer. Here too India to play a prominent part and, if she can develop that larger statesmanship which is not limited by the present facts and immediate possibilities but looks into the future and brings it nearer, her presence may all the difference between a slow and timid and a bold and swift development. A catastrophe may intervene and interrupt or destroy what is being done, but even then the final result is sure. For unification is a necessity of nature, an inevitable movement. Its necessity for the nations is also clear, for without it the freedom of the small nations may be at any moment in peril and the life even of the large and powerful nations insecure. The unification is therefore to interests of all, and only human imbecility and stupid selfishness can it: but these cannot stand for ever against the necessity of and the Divine Will. But an outward Nature basis is not enough: there must grow up an international spirit and outlook, international forms and institutions must appear, perhaps such developments as dual or multilateral citizenship, willed interchange or voluntary fusion of cultures. Nationalism will have fulfilled itself and lost its militancy and would no longer find these things incompatible with self-preservation and the integrality of its outlook. A new spirit of oneness will take hold of the human race.

"Another dream, the spiritual gift of India to the world already begun. India's spirituality is entering Europe and America in increasing measure. That movement will grow; amid the more and more disasters of the time eyes are turning towards her and there is even an increasing resort not only to her teachings, but to her psychic and spiritual practice.

The final dream was a step in evolution which would raise man to a higher and larger consciousness and begin the solution of the problem which have perplexed and vexed him since he first began to think and to dream of individual perfection and a perfect society. This is still a personal hope and an idea, an ideal which has begun to take both in India and in the West on forward-looking minds. The difficulties in the way are more formidable than in any other field of endeavour. but difficulties were made to be overcome and if the Supreme Will is there, they will be overcome. Here too, if this evolution is to take place, since it must proceed through a growth of the and the inner consciousness, the initiative can come from India and, although the scope must be universal, the central movement be here.

Such is the content which I put into this date of India's liberation; whether or how far this hope will be justified depends upon the new and free India."

# Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education:

Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education is an integral part of the Ashram. It began as a small school, in 1943 with about 20 students. But its growth has been rapid. An educational convention was held on 24 April 1951, with many distinguished educationists attending it, which resolved to establish an International University Centre as a fitting memorial to Sri Aurobindo. The Mother said in her inagural address:

"Sri Aurobindo is present in our midst, and with all the power of his creative genius he presides over the formation of the University Centre which for years he considered as one of the best means of preparing the future humanity to receive the Supramental light that will transform the elite of today into a new race manifesting upon earth the new light and force and life."

Soon after the convention, on 6 January 1952, the Mother inaugurated the Sri Aurobindo International University Centre. A prayer which the students were given on this occasion, stresses what education at this centre has as its goal.

"Make of us the hero warriors we aspire to become. May we fight successfully the great battle of the future that is to be born, against the past that seeks to endure; so that the new things may manifest and we be ready to receive them."

The objects of the Centre of Education are—

- (i) to evolve and realise a system of integral education, and to make it a dynamic ideal for society;
- (ii) organise an environment and an atmosphere affording inspiration and facilities for the exercise and development of the essential five aspects of personality, the physical, the vital, the mental, the psychic and the spiritual;
- (iii) to emphasise the unity of all knowledge and to attempt to bring Humanities and Science close together into a real sense of unity for the benefit of both;
- (iv) to develop the sense of the oneness of mankind and international collaboration; and
- (v) to discover and prepare for the role that India has to play in the formation of the new international harmony.

Here is a bird's eye view of the growth of the Centre of Education as well as the Department of Physical Education;

1944: A playground is obtained for the school.

1946: A dispensary, with a full-time medical officer, opened to take care of the health of the children.

1948: Laboratory for Physics and Chemistry opened.

1951: A sports ground with 400 metre cinder track made available.

1954: A laboratory for Science of Life (Biology), with a small museum, opened.

1954: The Sri Aurobindo Library opened in a spacious building.

1957: A swimming pool with Olympic style diving board opened.

1958: Special Dancing and Music Halls constructed.

1964: A studio for painting opened.

1965: A picture gallery for regular display of works of art opened.

1966: A laboratory for Engineering Technology opened.

1968: School for Perfect Eyesight opened.

In 1959, in order to keep the Centre free from the restrictive definition the term 'university' traditionally carries, the institution's name was changed to Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education.

There are more than 20 residential homes where the children stay. No tuition fee is charged, but an amount of Rs. 100 and in certain cases, Rs. 150 are taken per month towards the student's boarding and lodging expenses.

There are about 700 students in the Centre and about 180 full and part-time teachers. All the teachers are Ashramites and are expected to do their work in the spirit of sadhana.

There are no vacations in the Centre in the ordinary sense of the term. The classes, however, remain suspended for 5 weeks during November and December when there is a special concentration on physical and aesthetic activities.

Each student learns at least four languages: his mother-tongue, Sanskrit, English and French. It is observed that a student generally picks up a couple of extra languages, spontaneously. There is provision for teaching almost all the Indian languages and several foreign languages including German, Italian and Spanish. The Centre does not give any diploma or degree.

According to the educational philosophy of the Centre the child is a soul with a body, life-energy and mind to be harmoniously and integrally developed. The education system is therefore so organised as to secure:

- (i) the fullest possible development of the physique;
- (ii) a fruitful channelisation of the life-energy in pursuits that contribute to growth of the personality;
- (iii) a full training of the mental faculties in the fields of various Humanities and Sciences; and
- (iv) the requisite help, through a powerful spiritual atmosphere, to the soul to come forward and gradually begin to govern the rest of the being.

The Centre of Education experiments with what is known as the Free Progress System. No mechanical syllabus is imposed on all the children or even on a group of them. Each one is viwed as a special case, full of potentialities and problems peculiar to himself or herself. So the system is so organised—

- (i) as to give to each one the possibility to discover his own lines of development in accordance with his inner truth of being;
  - (ii) to give the possibility of progressing at one's own pace, and
- (iii) thus, ultimately, to enable him to take the charge of his own development.

As the authorities on the system put it:

Education is a process of a harmonious and progressive awakening: education is a process of self-revelation of knowledge which is within, Aurobindo has said. "The first principle of teaching is and, as that nothing can be taught". Education is a process of the discovery function in the totality of existence of one's true place and one's station to the highest possible of the progressive lifting of reach of consciousness and action.

This is the truth of education underlying the Free Progress It is free because it is not prefabricated: it is free because not imposed on any individual; it is free because it encourages one to break the limitations of the past and to open to an exploration of new future possibilities: it is free because it is guided, not from without, but by oneself, by one's inner soul. In the words of guided the Mother: "Free progress is progress bv soul and not enslaved by habits, conventions and preconceived ideas."

As the name of the Institution itself suggests, the Centre is international in character. An attempt is made to represent here the culture of the different regions of the world in such a way as to be accessible to all, not merely intellectually, but also vitally in habits, customs, in art under all forms, and physically too through dress, games, sports, industries, food and even reconstruction of natural scenery. The ideal is that every nation with its distinctive culture should have a contribution of its own to make so that it would find a practical and concrete interest in the cultural synthesis.

The international character of the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education of the Ashram is easily discernible. As Pavitra, the Director of the Centre said: The Centre of Education is international in practice and not only in name. This is in accordance with Sri Aurobindo's conception that unity manifests in diversity without losing its oneness. The students as well as the teachers are from all parts India and from many countries abroad, without any distinction of sex. race, creed or caste. Most of the Indian languages are taught, as also foreign languages. The cultures of different nations are made accessible not merely intellectually in ideas, principles and languages, but also vitally in habits and customs, in art under all forms-painting, sculpture, music, dance, architecture and decoration-and physically in dress, games and sports. Shows, exhibitions and films are used extensively for this purpose. सन्यापन जयन

### The Department of Physical Education:

The Department of Physical Education plays a cardinal role in the life of the Ashram. The Yoga of Sri Aurobindo visualises the transformation of the total being and the integral education attempted at the Centre of Education lays down the distinct principles of training for the various parts of the students' being: Physical, Vital, Mental, Psychic and Spiritual.

According to Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, the Director of the Department, an ideal physical education has two aspects: Health Education and Physical Training.

The purpose of Health Education will be: (i) to give information and education to the people about health and hygiene, (ii) to look after the sanitation and cleanliness of the place, (iii) to prevent and fight diseases and

infections (iv) to arrange periodical health education of the people and attend those who need special attention, (v) to look after the purity of food and drink produced and sold in the country.

Under the second aspect, Physical Training, come (a) corrective measures for the defective and deficient children, (b) well-planned programme for normal children, (c) competitions in different branches of physical education and (d) demonstrations of physical performances of the different branches of physical education.

Like the Centre of Education, the Department of Physical Education also had a spontaneous but rapid growth. It started in the year 1954. The annual programme of the physical demonstration which takes place on the 2 of December, began in the same year with a handful of boys. The Ashram playground had been available the same year. The tennis ground on the sea-shore was available in 1948. From 1955, the 2nd December programme began to take place in the sports ground.

The Department of Physical Education, which experiments with both Eastern and Western methods of physical culture, has international contacts and from time to time expert gymnasts, renowned players and swimming coaches visit the Ashram and stay here for a certain period, imparting training to the Ashram youths. In 1956, for example, a famous Soviet team of gymnasts had visited the Ashram and there had been exchange of demonstrations.

The international character of the Ashram has become more prominent with the growth of Auroville at its outskirts.

The Bulletin of Physical Education (now known as The Bulletin of Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education) began publication in 1949 with a message from Sri Aurobindo which forms the basis of the physical culture in the Ashram. The Department had its gymnasium in 1952. The swimming pool was opened in 1957. An annexe to the sports ground was available in 1962.

The Library of Physical Education is rich with important books and periodicals on the subject. For group activities as well as for individual practice new items are introduced or evolved every year, through regular study of Eastern and Western methods in the field of exercises.

The members of the Department, whose range of age extends from 6 to 70, or may be more, are divided into various groups, and aquatics, athletics, gymnastics and games are conducted under well-trained captains.

The spiritual significance of the physical education is best expressed in these words of the Mother: "As we rise to this degree of perfection which is our goal we shall perceive that the truth we seek is made of four major aspects: Love, Knowledge, Power and Beauty. These four attributes of the truth will spontaneously express themselves in our being. The psyche will be the vehicle of true and pure love, the mind that of infallible knowledge, the vital will manifest an invincible power and strength and the body will be the expression of a perfect beauty and perfect harmony.

# Sri Aurobindo Society:

Sri Aurobindo Society was founded in 1960 and was registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 with its administrative headquarters at Pondicherry. The membership is open to all, irrespective of nationality, religion and social status, etc.

The objects of the Society are-

- (i) to make known to the members and people in general the aims and ideals of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, their system of Integral Yoga and to work for its fulfilment in all possible ways and for the attainment of a spiritualised society as envisaged by Sri Aurobindo;
- (ii) to train selected students and teachers from all over the world in the integral system of education i.e. spiritual, psychic, mental, vital and physical;
- (iii) to help in cash or in kind by way of donations, gifts, subsidies, and also in other ways in the all-round development of Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, and to help similar centres of education;
- (iv) to establish study groups, libraries, ashrams, and other institutions, centres, branches, and societies for study and practice of Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother and to help the existing ones;

- (v) to establish centres of physical culture, sports and volunteer organisations for inculcating and promoting the spirit of discipline, co-operation and service to others and to undertake activities for promotion of health and bodily perfection; and
- (vi) to establish, take over, schools, colleges and other educational institutions and to run them on the lines and ideals of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

World Conferences: In August 1964, the first World Conference of Sri Aurobindo Society was held at Pondicherry, with 400 delegates from all parts of India and from U.S.A., Japan, East Africa, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam and Ceylon.

The Mother's message to the Conference was:

"The future of the Earth depends on a Change of Consciousness. The only hope for the future is in a change of man's consciousness and the change is bound to come.

But it is left to me to decide if they will collaborate for this change or it will have to be enforced upon them by the power of crushing circumstances."

The Conference included a two-day seminar, and a two-day plenary session, besides a day free for committee meetings.

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Since then the Society has had several conferences, each one a milestone in cultivating a deeper awareness of a spiritual fraternity. The Society has undertaken several projects: publications to popularise the works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, holding seminars on important issues, opening up branches all over the world and holding youth camps in order to cultivate a sound character and understanding of the basic problems of life among the youths.

The Society has its members in 64 countries, with 332 centres in India and 32 in other countries, till the middle of 1974. Several centres have their own buildings and they run institutions like schools and meditation centres and organise meetings and exhibitions.

The Society has done commendable work in bringing out the major works of Sri Aurobindo in various Indian languages. It has also prepared an exhibition-set of large photographs on the Ashram which can be borrowed by educational or cultural organisations. The Government of India displayed this set through the embassies abroad as a part of the Sri Aurobindo-Centenary Programme, in 1972.

The film unit of the Society, 'Aurofilms', has made three colour documentaries on the life of Sri Aurobindo, the Ashram, and the Centre of Education.

The Society maintains a number of guest houses and children's houses at Pondicherry.

The Society has launched a major project, Auroservice, which aims at creating a new economic structure with a spiritual foundation. Its work has already started in three States. It intends to undertake area surveys to find out the human, industrial, agricultural and educational potentialities and plan and assist their development, to provide with consultancy and financial, technical and marketing help to upcoming concerns, and establish a work research and information centre for facilitating such works.

### World Union:

In his message for the 15th of August 1947, Sri Aurobindo had said that one of his dreams was "a world-union forming the outer basis of fairer, brighter and nobler life for all mankind."

Inspired by this, some keen students of Sri Aurobindo's works formed an organisation, with the headquarters at Pondicherry, named New World Union, to popularise Sri Aurobindo's vision of human unity. This was in November, 1958.

In the first meeting of the organisation's executive committee in April, 1960, at Pondicherry, the name was changed to World Union. The same year it was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act of India.

The aim of the organisation are:

1. to foster in all men the consciousness of the oneness of all life and the essential unity of all mankind;

- 2. to endeavour, by personal example, through social communication, and by means of other activities, to awaken and strengthen the sense of oneness and unity, in the faith that it will become increasingly the basic consciousness for the whole of human life;
- 3. to foster respect for all life and the practice of understanding, tolerance, active goodwill towards all, from one's family circle to society, the nation, the world;
- 4. to organise centres of life and work in India and in all countries throughout the world for the progressive realisation of these objects.

Since then the World Union has sent speakers to various parts of the world and has held several seminars. The subject for the 1960 Seminar held at Tapogiri, Nainital, was "The Ideal of Human Unity". The same theme was also discussed in a seminar at Pondicherry in 1961. In 1962 a seminar on "The Creative Collaboration of Science and Spirituality" was held at Sadaquat Ashram, Patna, sponsored jointly by World Union and Sarva Seva Sangh.

A seminar on 'Education for World Union' was held at Patna in 1968; another one on 'Co-ordination between Modern Science and Spirituality' took place at Jog Falls, Karnataka State in 1969. Another seminar on 'The Orientation of Human Activities to promote World Union' was held in 1971 at Bangalore.

The World Union International Centre at Pondicherry has held two World Conferences, the first in August 1964 and the second in August 1967. The Conference in 1964 began on the 16th of August and continued until the 21st. The subjects before the Conference were (i) Conscious Evolution and the Destiny of Man, (ii) A Review of the World Forces, Spiritual and others, leading to World Unity, (iii) Creative Collaboration between science and spirituality, (iv) Collaboration with other Non-Government organisations of the World during the United Nations Year of Co-operation, 1965.

The Second World Conference was held at Pondicherry from 12th to 16th of August 1967, primarily on the theme of 'Education for One World'.

The World Union sponsored a Parliament of Youth at Pondicherry in December, 1970. The subject before the Parliament was, 'The Evolution of the United Nations into a World Government'.

The World Union Conference of 1973 was held on the 15th of December. The World Union holds periodically, essay competitions on an international basis in order to stimulate and promote right thinking on World Union's ideals of Peace, Harmony and Unity. Cash awards are presented. World Union is the quarterly journal of the organisation and it has an international circulation. It organises exhibitions on themes such as 'Discovering Oneness'.

#### Auroville:

"There should be somewhere upon earth a place that no nation could claim as its sole property, a place where all human beings of goodwill, sincere in their aspiration, could live freely as citizens of the world, obeying one single authority, that of the supreme Truth, a place of peace, concord, harmony, where all the fighting instinct of man would be used exclusively to conquer the causes of his sufferings and miseries, to surmount his weakness and ignorance, to triumph over his limitations and incapacities: a place where the needs of the spirit and the care for progress would get precedence over the satisfaction of desires and passions, the seeking for material pleasures and enjoyment."

This was the Mother's dream many decades ago. It was when experiment in developing a harmonious community in the Ashram was a success and when she felt that the world, deplorably imbalanced by a tremendous material achievement on the one hand and an utter of right consciousness on the other hand, badly needed a daring example of a sensible alternative, she gave the idea of founding to Sri Aurobindo Society. In the world conference of the Society, in 1964. the idea of Auroville crystallised. Preparations began almost immediately, On 28 February 1968, a boy and a girl representing each country of the world put handfuls of earth of their country into a concrete urn, shaped like a lotus-bad, and that marked the foundation ceremony of Auroville. This solemn function was witnessed by an international gathering made up of Consular representatives, World Press and the youths who had come to participate in it, apart from several thousand people of the locality.

The charter of Auroville read:

1. Auroville belongs to nobody in particular.

Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville one must be a willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.

- 2. Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress and a youth that never ages.
- 3. Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within, Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisations.
- 4. Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity.

The city under making spreads along the borders of Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu, on the Bay of Bengal. Planned to house 50,000 residents, Auroville is concentric in shape with a diameter of 3 kilometres. The centre of the city is six kilometres from the sea. A green belt encircles the area.

The township is being planned in four zones: Residential, Cultural, Industrial and International, corresponding to four fundamental activities of man.

The four zones converge upon a central point where the Matrimandir is located. This is the heart of the town to be marked by a huge golden sphere. The Matrimandir is a place for meditation, but meditation not according to any denomination, but according to each individual's inner urge for communion with Truth.

The Matrimandir, which is under construction, will be encircled by twelve carefully laid out gardens.

The large structure approaching completion, Bharat Nivas, will house a permanent cultural exhibition from each Indian state. In addition, the pavilion will have an auditorium, an institute for teaching Indian languages, a library, a restaurant, and accommodation for staff and students. Several countries had to set up their pavilions.

The UNESCO has passed three resolutions supporting Auroville, unanimously, in 1966, 1968 and the latest being at its Paris session held during October-November, 1970, wherein it requested the Director-General "to take such steps as may be feasible within the budgetary provisions, to promote the development of Auroville as an important international cultural programme."

This international city is coming up amidst a cluster of age-old hamlets. But true to its ideal of spiritual fraternity, Auroville is absorbing them as an integral part of its existence.

At the moment (July 1974) there are about 300 voluntary workers living on the Auroville site, representing India, France, U.S.A., U.K., Germany, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Belgium, Africa, Mexico, Tunisia, New Zealand and Malaysia. There are others who are staying at Pondicherry though working for Auroville.

The Aurovillians live in communities in temporary houses according to their work and inclinations. One of the communities, named 'Aspiration' is about to enlarge into an advanced colony accommodating 2,000 inmates. This will form a model for the city of Auroville. The inmates of Aspiration live in simple, beautifully designed hexagonal cottages. All the civic services necessary for the community living have been set up, including a health centre.

The school in Auroville is a bold experiment of adventures of ideas. East and West meet here spontaneously; the local children read and play with those of the Westerners, in complete ignorance of the so-called racial differences.

A beginning in Auroville's industries has already been made with a printing press, a polyester unit engaged in preparing decorative objects and panels and roofings for buildings, and a handmade paper mill.

Research is underway to improve the quality of the soil by using organic fertiliser and even organic pesticides. Chemical fertiliser and pesticides are avoided.

A scarcity of water was a major problem. Aurovillians dug deep borewells which now help irrigate lands hitherto barren. Young scientists are working on the possible use of sea-water for purposes of irrigation.

Afforestation has been undertaken and thousands of sapplings have been planted to prevent soil-erosion and provide a green belt around the city. Flowers from a variety climatic regions flourish in an experimental botanical garden.

When the Auroville was launched, there was no guarantee of financial support whatever. But the organisers had an undaunted faith in the goodwill of humanity and they knew that help would be forthcoming sooner or later. A Rajasthani devotee of Sri Aurobindo sent a contribution of 12 thousand rupees on hearing about the project. With that the first plot of land was bought. With the foundation laid contributions flowed in. Even hundreds of poor people sent one-rupee money orders as tokens of their support. The Lions Clubs and the Rotary Clubs of India have expressed their solidarity by raising some funds through publication of souvenirs and sale of literature. Contributions have also come from some trusts and welfare organisations, like the 'Miserio' of Germany. Various State Governments and the Government of India have extended considerable financial support.

But individual contributions, either in cash or in kind or in form of participation, have been by for the biggest creative factor in the building of Auroville. That is most significant. As the Chief Architect, Mr. Roger Anger (one of the foremost modern architects of France) put it, "We are building man, not just a city Auroville is not required to be a continuation of all that has been done till now. Auroville wants to be a new creation, expressing a new consciousness in a new way and by new methods." He said further, "We are already amid interesting experiments at the socio economic level. Auroville is not to introduce the worn-out labour-employer system. All are collaborators and all will be provided for by Auroville according to the availability of resources and according to the peculiarity of the needs. The residential houses we are going to build are being financed by individuals, but such individuals who have agreed that the houses will belong to the community."

#### Sri Aurobindo's Action:

Sri Aurobindo's Action was formed in 1970 with the purpose of carrying Sri Aurobindo's message regarding India's peculiarities and problems to the people. It is registered as a society at Pondicherry.

Since its birth the Action Society has tried to spread the message vigorously in various parts of India, through publication of booklets and lecture tours.

It has been able to organise several youth camps at Pondicherry. Youths from almost all States of India have participated and have discussed India's problems as well as the youth problem.

The units formed by the Action had been significantly active during the celebrations of Sri Aurobindo's Birth Centenary in 1972.

The journal of the Action, entitled *Sri Aurobindo's Action*, is published since October, 1970, in English. It has a few editions in Indian languages too.

The organisation has been able to create an appreciation among the youth, of the fact that the real change in the country can come about only through a change of consciousness, by the people turning inward instead of acting from the surface of their mind or impulses and ambitions.

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सन्यापन जयन

# **GLOSSARY**

AGRAHARAM: a village or street of Brahmins.

AL : agricultural workers.

AMANJI : free labour in the days of the Cholas.

AMALDAR : an official in charge of a purgana under the

Muslim rulers.

AMBOGAM: a part of the marriage function held on the

marriage day or after a few days, when the couple is offered dress, utensils, furniture, etc. to facilitate the setting up of a new

home.

AMMI MIDHITHAL: the bride performing the ceremony of placing

her right foot on the grinding stone, the bridegroom helping her to do so at the

marriage function.

AMSAM : territorial division consisting of a few villages

in the Malabar area.

ANICUT: a water reservoir or a dam.

APPAM : a cake prepared with rice and sugar.

ARAIYAN : a chieftain.

ARATHANA : temple service; divine worship.

ARATHI/ALATHI : a kind of offering made to prevent the effects

of evil eye.

ARTHA MANDAPAM : hall immediately in front of the innermost

shrine in a temple.

ARUNTHATHI PARTHAL: the ceremony at which the bride witnesses the

star Arunthathi in the course of the marriage

ceremony as a model worthy of imitation.

ARUVAL : sickle.

AVATAR : an incarnation, specially of Vishnu.

AYACUT: area depending on an irrigation system. like

well, tank or canal.

BARAM: a weight of 500 pounds.

BOOTHA KALAM: the giving of food by the bride to the bride-

groom for the first time.

BOTTU : a spot or wafer of red sandal paste worn

on the forehead by males, the kumkum

worn by ladies.

BRAHMADEYA : land held free by the Brahmans.

BRAHMOTHSAVAM : the annual festival of a Hindu temple held on

a grand scale.

CACHE : French word for Kasu (see Kasu)

KANDASHASTI : festival celebrated in the month of aipasi.

CHAKRA(S) : an ancient coin.

CHANK : conch shell.

CHAUTH : an assessment equal to one-fourth of the

original standard assessment or generally one-fourth of the actual government collections demanded by the Marathas from the Mohammadan and Hindu Princes of Hindusthan as the price of forebearing to

ravage their countries.

CHEF THABEDAR (French): senior Thabedar, a police official next in rank

to the Nainard and the Palégar-chief native

police officials.

COTWAL : an Indian police official.

DARSHAN : vision or sight of a deity or idol.

DEKSHA: a household utensil for cooking and storing

water.

DESAM : territorial division in the olden days in the

Malabar area.

DESSANDRI : a person wandering from place to place.

DEVADANA : lands granted for temples.

DEVADASI : a dancing and singing girl attached to the

temple.

DHARBA/DHARBAI : a sacrificial grass much used in worship by

Hindus.

DHOLI : a litter.

DIKSHA: initiation of a disciple by a Guru.

DOUDDOU : a copper coin of small denomination.

DURBAR : a royal court or an audience.

ENNAL NALANGU: the ceremony of applying gingelly oil on the

head of the newly married couple.

ERU KALAPE : farmor's plough.

FANON : a silver coin.

FAUJDAR : an officer of the Moghul Government invested

with the charge of the police and jurisdiction

in all criminal matters.

FIRMAN : an order or authorisation.

GARI: a mode of conveyance.

GHANI : oil press.

GOPURAM: a tower at the entrance of a temple.

GRAMA: village—by extension, the people's organisation

at the village level.

GUMASTA: a writer or clerk.

HAVILDAR : a subordinate revenue official.

HOMAKUNDAM: a pit made in the ground for sacrified fire.

IRAYILI LAND : tax free land.

JAGIR : it is known to be merely a life-rent tenure, but

it is stated to convey a rent free title.

KADUKKAN : ear ring.

KALAKATTU : an agricultural implement—a hook utilised to

remove the weeds.

KALUVA (Telugu) : channel.

KALYANA MANDAPAM: a large hall for celebrating marriages, etc.

KAMBAKARIN : villager put on duty for distribution of water

for cultivation.

KAMBAYI : a variety of textile.

KANDY: a weight of 500 pounds.

KAPPU KATTUTHAL: the ceremony of tying a thread around the

right hand wrist before marriage.

KARAVAI : a tool used by goldsmiths.

KARUVARAI : a part of the temple in which the idol is placed

and where the Brahmin officiates.

KAVYA : an epic poem.

KASU: a copper coin of very small denomination.

KASULADANTA (Telugu): a chain with gold sovereigns as pendants.

KATTUMARAM: raft of logs tied together and used for fishing.

(CATAMARAN)

KAVALAI : a device to draw water from the well for

irrigation purposes.

KHARIF : the autumnal harvest.

KIRUTHIGAI : the third of the twenty-seven lunar asterisms.

KIZHAKKINI (Malayalam): the fourth room attached to the building is

called kizhakkini.

KOKKU THOSHAM : an evil cast on the children—believed to result

in disease.

KOLAYILAGAM: the room beyond the verandah.

(Malayalam)

KORAI : a variety of grass used for mat-weaving.

KUDAM: a household utensil used for fetching and

storing water.

KUDIKIDAPPUKARS/ : cultivating tenant.

KUDIKIDAPPUKARAN

KURUVAI : a short duration variety of paddy.

KURUVITHOSHAM: an evil cast on children by birds believed to

result in disease.

KUTCHA : crude.

LAMPASSE : a variety of textile exported during the XVIII

century.

LEHIAM : a medicine in semi-solid form.

MADATHIPATHI : the head of a mutt or a religious leader.

### 1636

MAGANAM: a territorial division.

MAGANI : a unit to measure rice, etc. normally one

sixteenth.

MAHAMANDAPAM: a large pavilion in a temple.

MAHANATTAR : distinguished men of the locality.

MANAI : house site.

MANAIMAPPU : house site enjoyed by village craftsmen.

MANAVARY (LAND) : land which depends on seasonal rains,

MANDAP/MANDAPAM: a pavilion or open porch.

MANGANI FESTIVAL : a festival unique in Karaikal, celebrated in

honour of Karaikal Ammayar.

MANVETTY : a hoe or an agricultural implement.

MAPPILLAI AZHAIPPU: a function on the eve of marriage when the

bridegroom is taken in a procession to the

place of marriage.

MARUVUNNAL : to dine and receive presents at the residence

of the bride after the marriage.

MATRIMANDIR : a place of meditation in Auroville near

Pondicherry.

MIRASDAR : a big land-owner.

MOI SEITHAL: to offer gifts in cash or kind to the newly

married couple.

MOKSHA : eternal bliss/heavenly abode.

MOOLAVAR : the idol in the sanctuary which is not taken

out for procession either within or without

the temple.

MUDRAS OF NATYA : different hand poses of classical dance.

MUKUTHI : a nose ornament.

MUNDU (Malayalam) : a dhoti worn around the loins.

NADU : a territorial division in the olden days; by

extension, the people's organisation at the

level.

NAGOTTU (Telugu); a jewel.

NATHAM : hamlet.

NATUVANAR : dance/music master.

NATYA : dance.

NAVARAI : a variety of crop.

NAVARATHIRI : the first nine nights in the month of purattaci

(in September) devoted to the worship of goddess Lakshmi, Saraswathy and other

Sakthies.

NEERAZHI MANDAPAM: a covered stone structure with pillars built

at the centre of the sacred tank in the temple.

NILAM: a unit of land measurement in the olden days.

NILAVILAKKU : a standing lamp.

PADAKKU : an old unit of measure.

PADIKAPPAR : those who had to keep watch over the village.

PADIKAVALKULI : remuneration paid for policing the lands.

PADINJATTAGAM (Malayalam) PADINJATTAPURA (Malayalam) a room beyond the kolayilagam in between the

vadakkini and thekkini.

PAGODA: a gold coin formerly minted at Madras having

the emblem of a temple on one side.

PALAGAI ALAVANGU: an agricultural implement.

PALAYAKAR : those guarding the bastions; in later days,

petty chieftain.

PANAM : see fanon.

PANDAKKAL: the ceremony of installing the first pole to

NATTUTHAL erect a pandal for a marriage.

PARAMBU : an agricultural implement; a board or roller

for smoothing land newly ploughed.

PARGANA : a territorial sub-division consisting of several

villages.

PARWANA : see firman.

PASUPATHA ASTRAM: the mighty arrow obtained from Lord Siva.

PATHIGAM: a poem of ten songs praising a deity.

PATIRI (Malayalam) : a crisp rice cake.

PATTA : duly registered land title.

PENN AZHAITHAL : the marriage eve function of receiving the

bride either from her own house or from a temple to take her to the place of marriage.

PICOTAH : (see Kavalai).

POLYGAR : (see palayakar).

PON : gold.

POROMBOKE : government or municipal land left uncultivated.

PRAKARA/PRAKARAM: the closed precincts of a temple.

PRATILOMA : some curious instances of mixed castes.

PUJARI the exorcist.

PUTTU rice cake.

the Governor or the Commandant of a fort. QILADAR

RADOTSAVAM : car festival of a temple.

: a wheeled instrument used by goldsmiths. RATANAM

**RATHAM** a temple car.

a bracelet worn above the elbow. RETTAKADIVAM (Telugu):

RISHABAM the sacred bull of Siva.

RYOT peasant cultivator.

a chowry used as a fan for idols in procession. SAMARA

a form of mortification. SAMADHI

SAMBA a variety of long duration paddy.

persons endowed with the knowledge trans-SAMBRADAYINS

mitted orally from teacher to teacher and

established as of divine authority.

SANYASI a Hindu ascetic.

self-immolation of a woman on the funeral SATHI

pyre of her husband.

a variety of textile exported. SILASSE

SOOL SEITHAL sool means pregnancy-Sool seithal is therefore

> a ceremony performed by the bride's parents at the residence of the bridegroom for the first pregnancy i.e. in the fifth or seventh month. After the function is over, the bride is taken to the house of her parents in

order to take care of the first delivery.

### 1640

SOONIAM: sorcery.

SOWCAR : a banker.

STALAPURANA: the written legend of a sacred place.

SURNAM: a medicinal powder.

TAI POOSAM : the eighth lunar asterism.

THALI : a nuptial badge tied on the neck of the bride

by the bridegroom at the time of the wedding.

TAMBIRAN : the head of a religious order, managing the

temple or the mutt according to tradition.

TAPASYA : penitence, self-mortification.

TAVALAI : a kind of brass pot.

THAKKA (Malayalam) : an ear ornament.

THALADI : a variety of long duration paddy.

THALAVAYE : a chief officer of the police.

THALI KATTU : the ceremony of tying the nuptial badge

around the neck.

THANNEER PANDAL: a thatched structure where drinking water

is supplied free on festival occasions.

THAYATHU: a small gold or silver casket with an amulet

worn by a person.

THAVA : self-imposed mortification to propitiate some

deity.

THEE MITHI : fire-walking.

THEPPA THIRUVIZHA: a festival when an idol is floated on the temple

tank.

TERI : a sand hill.

THEVANGU (thosham) : suffering from the evils of covetous eyes.

THIRTHAM/THEERTHAM: sacred bathing ghat.

THEKKINI (Malayalam): the room on the south.

TIRUKALYANAM: marriage festival of a deity in a temple.

TORTHU (Malayalam) : a towel.

ULAVIRAI : the share due to the farmer.

UTSAVAM : a religious festival in a temple.

VADAKKINI (Malayalam): the room on the north.

VADDANAM (Telugu) : a jewel worn around the waist.

VAHANA : the image of an animal or bird borne on a

vehicle or carriage used for the procession

of deities.

VAIKUNDA EKADESI : the eleventh phase of the moon.

VALAI KAPPU : ceremony held of in the 5th or 7th month of a

woman's first pregnancy. On this occasion, the women (with their husbands living) are given glass bangles to wear free of cost.

VANKI : a bracelet worn above the elbow.

VANNAN : washerman.

VARAM : the share of the produce due to the landowner

as agreed to between the farmer and the

cultivators as per tradition.

VELLANIRAI : the annual share of the landlord.

VIZHAL : a variety of grass used to cover the roof of

huts.

# 1642

VIDYASTANA : a seat of learning in olden times.

VOIKAL : canal.



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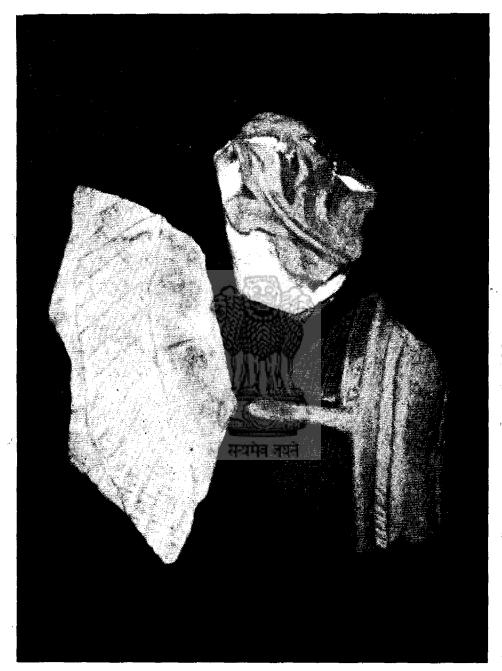
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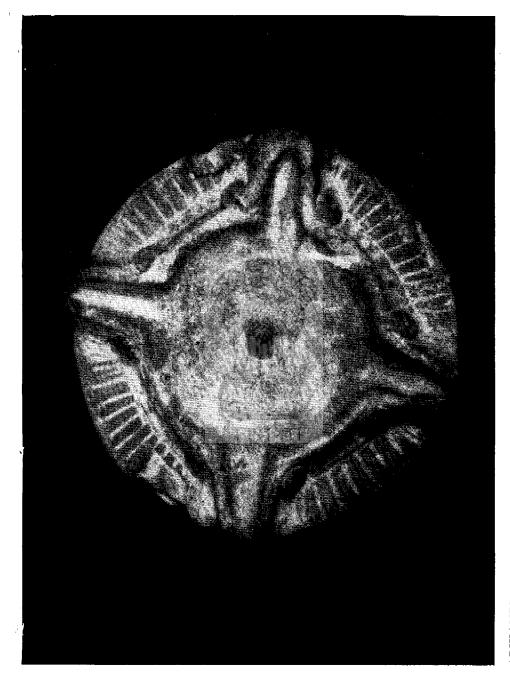


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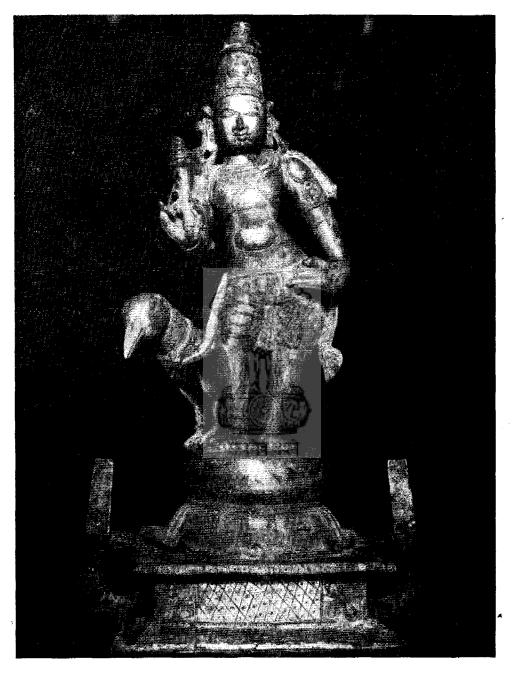


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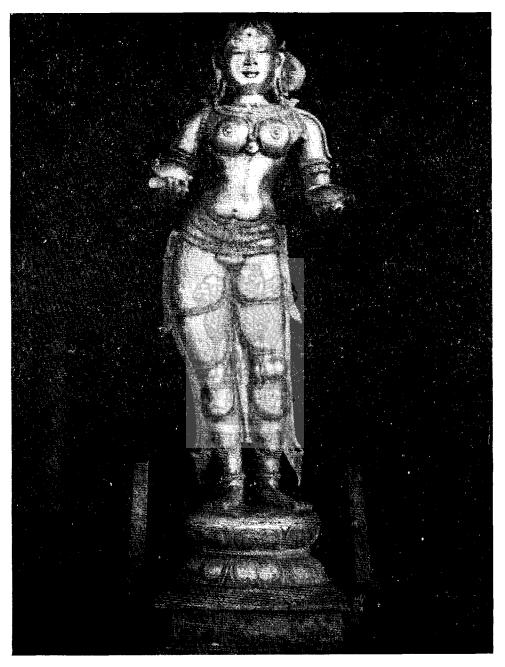


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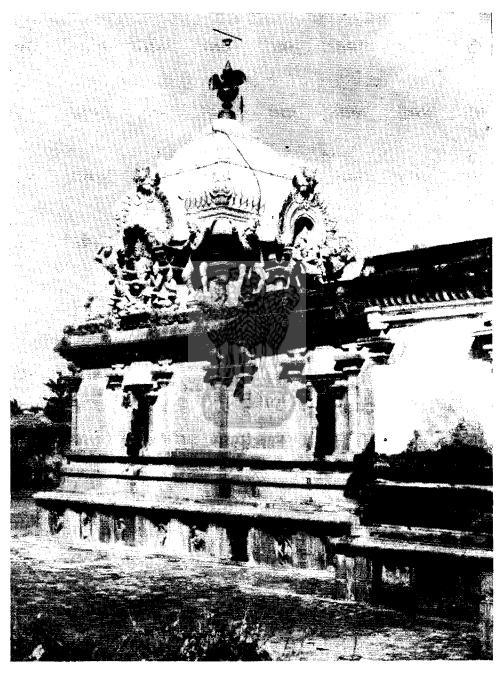
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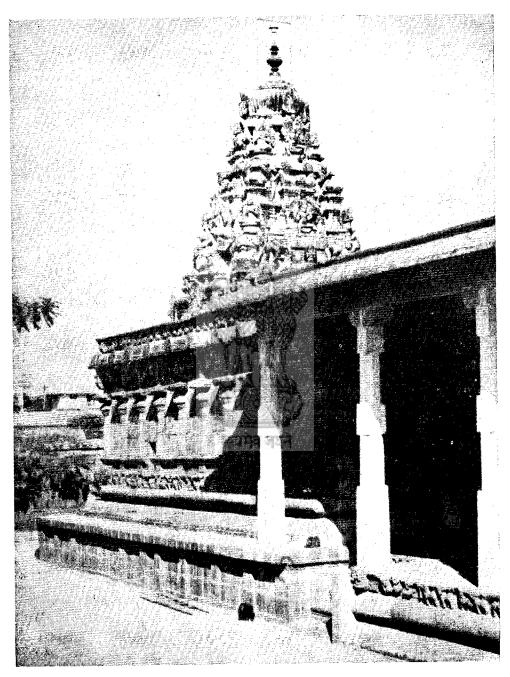
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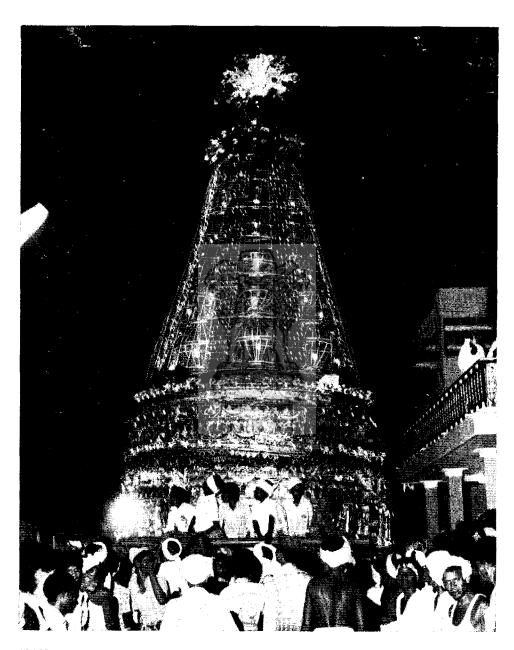
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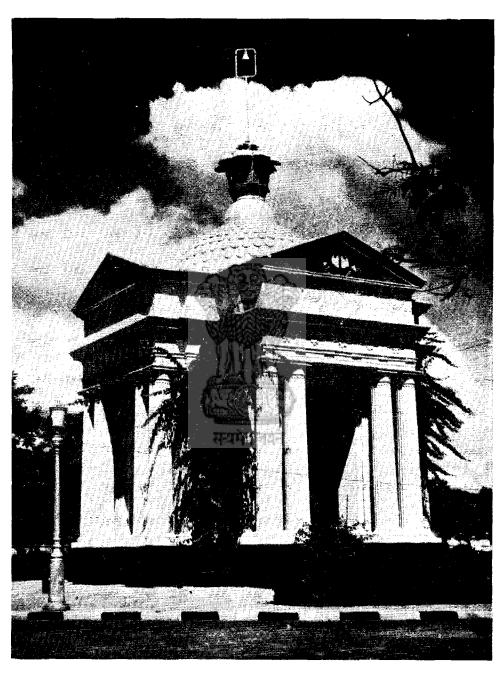
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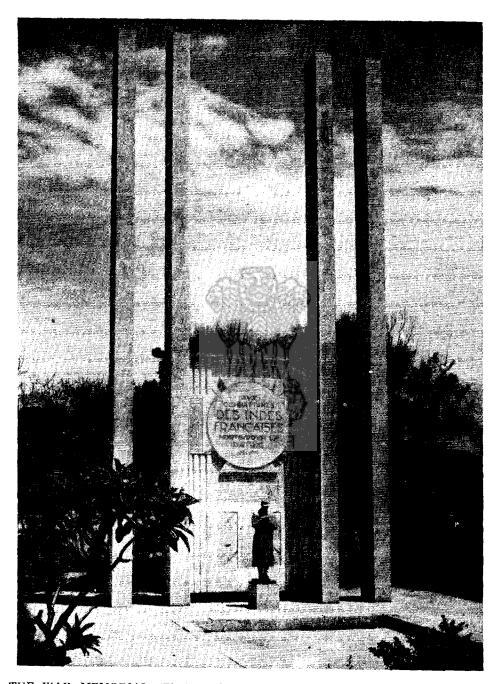
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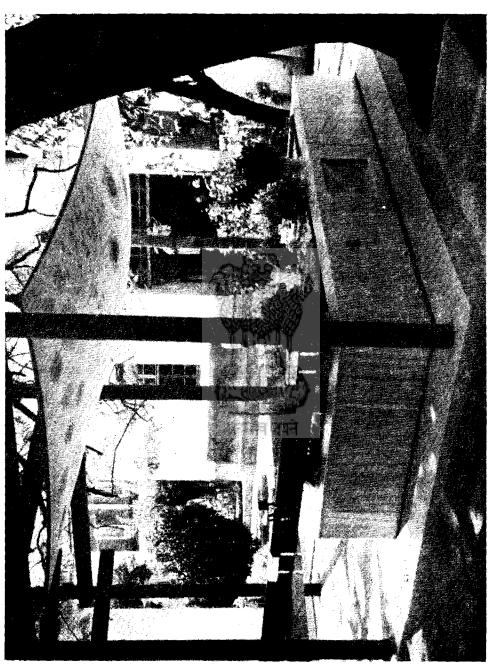
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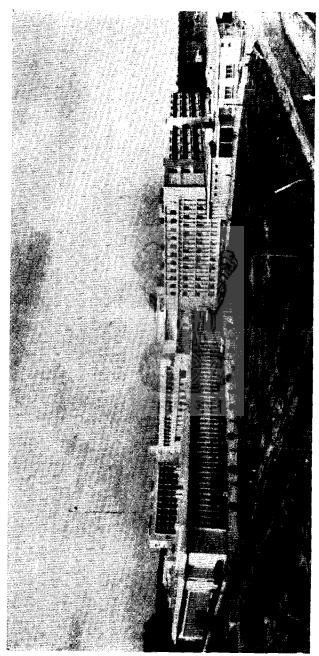
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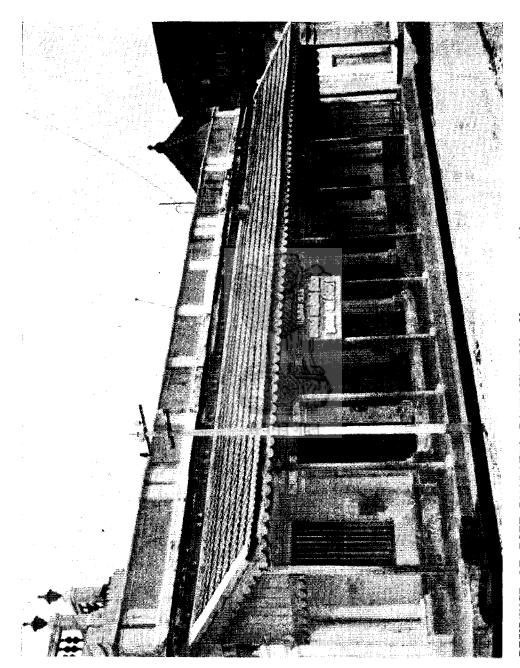
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